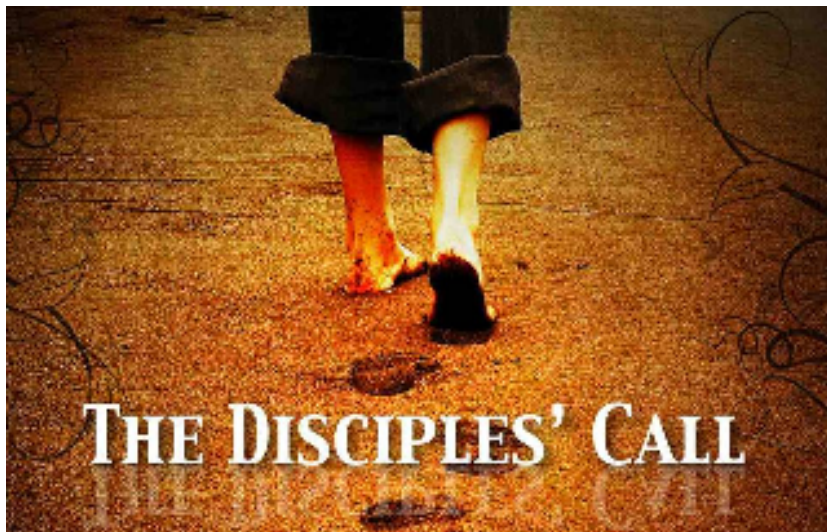


**Following Jesus**  
**Luke 9:51-62**

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**DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?**

**Following Jesus**

***“As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.” Luke 9:51***

**Jesus is a man on a mission.**

**First Encounter**

**Wannabe #1: *I will follow you wherever you go.***



**Jesus: *Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.***

**Fresh from his rejection by the Samaritans and knowing what was coming in Jerusalem, Jesus warns this man not to make a hasty decision. Rejection, homelessness and hardship are part of the life of a disciple.**

**Second Encounter**

**Jesus: *Follow me.***

**Wannabe#2: *Lord, first let me bury my father.***

**Jesus: *Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.***

**More accurately: *Let the [spiritually] dead bury their own [physically] dead.***

**Perhaps Jesus discerned that here was a sincere believer who needed help with his priorities. Proclaiming the kingdom takes priority even over family matters.**

### **Third Encounter**

**Wannabe #3: *I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family.***

**Jesus: *No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.***

**To ‘*look back*’ means to look to the things left behind and indicates a lack of resolve to move forward.**

- **Lot’s wife looked back to her life in Sodom**
- **The Israelites in the desert looked back to their slavery in Egypt**
- **The true disciples did not look back –  
Matt. 4:18-22**

**What makes Jesus such a controversial figure is that his sayings are absolute and unapologetic.**

**The cost to follow Jesus? everything.**

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### **Things to Think About:**

**Jesus was on a clear mission to get to Jerusalem. What mission(s) are you on for 2010?**

**In many ways, Jesus was an alien in a foreign land. What does that mean for how you live your life?**

**How do you react to the words of Jesus to these would-be followers? Is Jesus being too hard on them?**

**Have you experienced some rejection and hardship because you follow Jesus?**

**The cost to follow Jesus is everything. What are you still hanging on to? What are you looking back at?**

**How do you love and honour your family while still giving first priority to Jesus?**

**Do you think we’ve made the decision to follow Jesus too easy?**

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