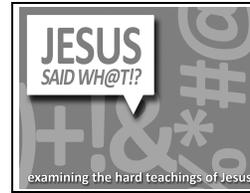


The point for us is Jesus Christ can't be known apart from absolute commitment. You don't get to keep Jesus in your hip pocket. He's calling the shots not you.

"Understand that absolute commitment does not mean absolute obedience. Nobody can absolutely obey. We are all sinners. Past present and future. But absolute commitment means a willingness take all conditions off of your allegiance to Him."

Sierra Community Church August 29th, 2021 Part 4- Dan Wilvers



"Let the dead bury their own dead."
Luke 9:57-62

What does it mean to follow Jesus?

⁵⁷ As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸ Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." ⁵⁹ He said to another man, "Follow me." But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹ Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-by to my family." ⁶² Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

Luke 9:57-62

What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus?

It's going to involve some hardship. vs 58

It's going to involve being sold out for His cause. vs. 60 vs. 62

It's Jesus who said:

"If anyone wishes to come after Me, let them deny themselves." Luke 9:23

Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. ... calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? Luke 14:27,28

Community Group Questions:

1. How eager are you to surrender to Christ and follow Him?
2. What is the toughest part of your life to surrender?

It's with a level of desperation and joy that I cry out to God to give me Christ as my Lord and Savior, whom I joyfully follow for the infinite value that comes to me. John MacArthur

The First Person: "I will follow you wherever you go." vs. 57

Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." vs. 58

Gospel of Matthew's parallel account:

Then a teacher of the law (scribe) came to him and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." Matthew 8:19

Why did he want to follow Jesus?

When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. Matthew 8:16

He saw the crowds, the miracles, and Jesus was surely the greatest teacher he had ever heard, and so in his excitement says, "I will follow You wherever you go." vs. 57

Jesus had seen this before.

...many began to trust in him. ²⁴But Jesus didn't trust them, because he knew all about people. ²⁵No one needed to tell him about human nature, for he knew what was in each person's heart. John 2:23-25

Jesus went right to the issue. He knows this man's heart. So he tells him expect comfort and ease.

"Foxes have holes, birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." vs.58

Jesus kingdom promises us the things that will last forever.
Your pedigree won't last forever. Your money will turn to dust.
But Jesus will give you only things that are absolutely eternal."

Paul says, ...for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Romans 14:17

The Second Person: Jesus turns and says, "Follow Me." and he says, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." vs.59

The point here is his father wasn't dead yet. Why?

Jewish law required a body to be buried the day of death.
He wouldn't be there listening to the Lord if that were the case.

So the phrase: *"I must bury my father,"* means- *"I need stay at home until he's gone so that I can bury him and handle the estate and thereby collect my inheritance."*

Again Jesus knew this, it's why he asked him to follow him.
He's testing him to see where his heart is at.

²²The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God's word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced. Matthew 13:22

This guy's seed fell amongst the thorns. He saying I've waited too long not to cash in.

And Jesus said to him, it's a rebuke: "Allow the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God." vs 60

The third person essentially says the same thing.

"I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family." vs.61

Jesus responds with a proverb that can be traced back to a writer from 800 BC. "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God." vs.62

"The shocking quality of his remarks show just how seriously Jesus takes the call to discipleship."
Darrell L Bock NIV Application Commentary