

3 practical applications:

1st-Discipleship is not an option.

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

Luke 9:23

2nd- It's a journey.

"... (Jesus) set his face to go to Jerusalem," verse 51

⁶For he raised us from the dead along with Christ ... ⁷...and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. Ephesians 2:6, 7

Jesus doesn't say, "If you follow me, I'll go to the cross for you."

Jesus says, "I'm going to the cross for you, so follow me."

3rd-It's a proper double standard.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Matthew 5:7

Judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful.

Mercy triumphs over judgment. James 2:13

February 10th, 2019 Dan Wilvers Part 6 (What it means to follow Jesus)



How Christ Calls His Followers

Luke 9:20-25; 51-62

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "The Christ of God." ²¹ Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. ²² And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life." ²³ Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. ²⁵ What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?"

⁵¹ As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; ⁵³ but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" ⁵⁵ But Jesus turned and rebuked them, ⁵⁶ and they went to another village.

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-bye 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."

I. Following Jesus requires a new priority.

⁵⁷ ... 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." vs. 57,58

⁶¹ Still another said, **"I will follow you,** Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye 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." vs. 61,62

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*"Let the dead bury the dead/No one is fit for the kingdom of God if you look back.
Foxes have holes, birds have nests/ **What's Jesus saying?***

*"If you don't put me as first in your life,
you don't really see me for who I am."*

II. Following Jesus requires a new identity.

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, Luke 9:23,24

And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed? Luke 9:25

Jesus' is saying, *If you build your identity on anything in this world, it's sinking sand, it's unstable. You'll lose it.*

...but whoever loses his life for me will save it. Luke 9:24

Instead of trying to gain a self by things, build everything in your life on me, on who I am, what I have done.

So how is that possible?

III. Following Jesus requires insight into His mercy.

As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. "And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; but the people there did not welcome him because he was heading for Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, 'Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?' " Luke 9:51-54

Here's the key: Jesus rebukes the disciples but he doesn't rebuke the Samaritan town.

Jesus could have brought down fire, but he doesn't. **Why not?**

"I have come to cast fire upon the earth; and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is accomplished! Luke 12:49,50

Darrell Bock NIV Application Commentary: *"Baptism here in Luke 12 is a reference to [Jesus] approaching death. As later texts make clear, Jesus will engage in a great cleansing act, where he will identify with the sins of humanity and provide a basis for both saving and condemning by his experiencing God's judgment in their place. In the judgment he experiences, [Jesus] provides the opportunity for others to be spared.*

Until you're astounded that he took the fire for you, you will not understand why Jesus makes the assertions he does about following Him or what it means to be a disciple.

God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, ⁵ that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) ⁶ For he raised us from the dead along with Christ ... Ephesians 2:6,7