

DIRECTION-LESS: The Cost

May 30, 2021 Luke 9:57-62

OPENING QUESTION

How do you determine whether or not the cost of an item you want to buy is worth it?

ARE YOU READY TO FOLLOW JESUS? - Luke 9:57-58

- As they walk along the road, a man tells Jesus he will follow Him anywhere.
- The road they were on may represent the way of the Christian walk.
- "Son of Man": The Old Testament (Daniel) refers to the Messiah as the Son of Man; Jesus is confirming that He is the Messiah.
- "Lay His head"; Jesus and His disciples will not be living a life of comfort.

To what extent do you pursue comfort? Are comfort and convenience important to you (be honest)? When have your principles become more important than your comfort? Have you ever had to make that choice?

CAN I BURY MY FATHER FIRST? - Luke 9:59-60

- Though the request seems reasonable, the potential disciple's premise is that family comes before Jesus.
- For a Jew this was a religious duty having priority over everything else. Only in the case of a temporary Nazirite vow (Num 6:6-7) or if one were the high priest (Lev 21:10-11) could one be excused from this duty of burial
- Jesus demands an allegiance transcending even this greatest of earthly obligations.
- "Let the [spiritually] dead bury their own [physical] dead."
- Or perhaps, "I work for my father, I can't just go and leave. Now when my father dies and I own everything, then I can come and follow you."
- *Go and proclaim the kingdom of God* - To preach the kingdom is to preach the benefits that God has made available because Jesus the Messiah has come.

Put yourself in this man's position. What if Jesus asked you to follow Him without burying your mother or father? Most of us have never had to make that choice, but what if you had to? What would be your motivation?

DON'T LOOK BACK - Luke 9:61-62

- Jesus interprets the request as a desire to hang on to the old life (1 Kings 19:19-21, Philippians 3:13).
- Have you counted the cost in following Jesus?
- Putting ourselves at the center of the universe has distorted our view of Jesus.
- It's not about discovering yourself, it's about denying yourself and following Jesus.
- Following Jesus means giving up everything we thought we needed to receive what we really need from God.

What do you really need? What are the old things you're hangin on to thtg you and God know need to go? What is keeping you from following Jesus?

DIRECTION[†]-LESS?

CLOSING QUESTIONS

Hear

What are some things that stood out to you in this week's sermon and Scriptures?

Obey

What are you willing to give up to follow Jesus? Are there things in your life that you would NOT give up: family, wealth, comfort? What if you gave in to the fact that He wants what's best for you, if you would only trust and follow Him? He loves you, and knows what's best for you. It's sounds easy, but it's not.

Pray

Pray that God will show you how much He loves you and wants what's best for you. Pray that He will show you the things (even good things) in your life that you have not turned over to Him. Pray for one another in this area.