

## Luke 9:28-62

### Follow Me

#### Image Church // The Gospel of Luke: Inverted Kingdom Wk. 11

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Good morning Image Family, so good to be here with you this morning! For those of you who do not know me, my name is Bryson Moon and I am the college pastor here at Image Church!

I am excited to stand before you this morning and open God's word with you!

We have been in a series through the book of Luke, called Inverted Kingdom

what we're seeing in the *gospel of Luke* is how Jesus comes and flips everything upside down... We see that Jesus is the unsuspecting King that came as a fulfilment of God's promise for salvation...

And Luke gives a detailed account of Jesus' life, weaving together a tapestry of the fulfilment of God's promise for salvation through the person and work of Jesus, *which has huge implications for our lives...*

We will see that Jesus is the *means of salvation*... But what we also see is that He's also the *model* for how saved people should live...

See, the call of Christianity is to *believe in the work of Jesus*, but also to *follow the person of Jesus*... Which means that your life is about His Kingdom, where He calls you into a lifestyle that's ruled by God and all about the glory of God...

It's through Jesus that we get a glimpse into what God's Kingdom is like...

And we see that God's Kingdom goes against worldly expectations... In fact, we see a lot of people rejecting Jesus because His aim and His agenda is completely different from that of the world...

This morning we are going to be picking up where Pastor Mike left off last week in Luke chapter 9...

So if you have your Bible... Luke 9 picking up in verse 28, as you are turning I want to highlight for you a couple things to keep in mind as we work through our text for this morning

Last Sunday, we saw a couple things that a really important to remember... in Luke 9: 18-20 Jesus asked who do the people say I am... oh a prophet, John the Baptist, maybe Elijah - But Jesus flips it to Peter and ask, "Who do you say I am?"

Peter answers the Christ - ok so hold onto this - then right after Jesus foretells his death and resurrection and then goes right into a call to take up your cross and follow Him...

Ok so keep all this in mind as we read...

#### Luke 9:28-36

**28 Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. 29 And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. 30 And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, 31 who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, [b] which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.**

Ok, remember Jesus just pointed to this a little earlier... we know what is coming

**32 Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. 33 And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three**

tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah” –not knowing what he said. 34 As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. 35 And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, my Chosen One; [c] listen to him!” 36 And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

So there is a lot to draw from this... this passage is known as the Transfiguration - this is a big deal right, 1. Peter, James and John see a dead guy, and a guy who mysteriously just went to heaven, just taken up... that's kind of a big deal

2. But they see Jesus, it says **they saw his glory**

This moment is significant as it puts on display the deity of Christ, that He is in fact the Son of God, His glory is revealed to these three disciples - God speaks audibly for the 2nd time in the NT, “This is my Son, my Chosen One, listen to Him”

and then The cloud which covers them - indicates the presence of God!

We have Peter's confession of Jesus as the Christ and then here through the transfiguration, confirmation of who Jesus is!

Jesus is the Son of God, the long awaited Messiah!

37 On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. 38 And behold, a man from the crowd cried out, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. 39 And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out. It convulses him so that he foams at the mouth, and shatters him, and will hardly leave him. 40 And I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” 41 Jesus answered, “O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.” 42 While he was coming, the demon threw him to the ground and convulsed him. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the boy, and gave him back to his father.

Here again, we see Jesus and the power that he has even over unclean spirits - a father desperate for his boy to be healed, the disciples are unable to do so - Jesus rebukes them for their lack of faith - In Mark's gospel I love what he records the father responding to Jesus - the father says “I believe, help my unbelief” - it so relatable... not the whole the demon possession thing... i dunno maybe there is some of you who can relate “uh pastor you should have been at my house this morning... these kids!!!

But it's so relatable because we often can find ourselves in that place of “i believe, help my unbelief”!!!!

But here Jesus power is once again put on display for all to see!

43 And all were astonished at the majesty of God. But while they were all marveling at everything he was doing, Jesus said to his disciples, 44 “Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men.” 45 But they did not understand this saying, and it was concealed from them, so that they might not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

All were amazed at the majesty of God, and Jesus foretells his death again... Jesus is saying to his disciples... pay close attention, the time is coming and it won't be much longer and as we have seen so far this morning, they have much to learn!

Which makes the next few verses real interesting as they began to argue about who is the greatest??

46 An argument arose among them as to which of them was the greatest. 47 But Jesus, knowing the reasoning of their hearts, took a child and put him by his side

So all this time with Jesus and they have this argument about who is the greatest... but I love how Jesus responds...

He takes a child and he says **“48 “Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is great.”**

The thing to understand here is that in their culture children were considered less than, they had no value... worthless so Jesus takes this child and holds up for them what the Kingdom of God is all about.

“For he who is least among you all is the one who is great” **INVERTED KINGDOM ...** this doesn't make sense? Jesus is constantly flipping things around on them. Causing them to reorient the way they see the world, others around them, and even the way they see themselves!!!

**Jesus came to serve rather than be served! To be like Christ is to become a servant...**

Picking up

**49 John answered, “Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he does not follow with us.” 50 But Jesus said to him, “Do not stop him, for the one who is not against you is for you.” 51 When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. 52 And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. 53 But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. 54 And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” 55 But he turned and rebuked them. 56 And they went on to another village.**

Here Jesus again alludes to what is coming, his face was set toward Jerusalem... pointing to what is about to take place soon...

James and John, these dudes I dunno -- these two and Peter just, I dunno I'm glad their stories are here cuz I think they make us feel better about how much we be messin up!

The samaritans won't let them stay so their response “well lets kill them with fire from heaven”... I don't really have a point to make here because I want us to get to the last few verses and spend our time their this morning... but I wanted to hopefully just make you feel a little bit better about yourself...

Pickiing up in in vs 57

**57 As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” 58 And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” 59 To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” 60 And Jesus[g] said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” 61 Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” 62 Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”**

Right here we have 3 different people, Jesus addresses 3 different men who want to on some level follow Jesus.

2 of them say I will follow you and to one Jesus calls him to follow but Jesus is going to address them differently, each of them had different reasons for not following, or hindrances for why they could not immediately follow Christ.

I want each of us to see what is happening here, and this morning I want us to wrestle with the call to follow Christ. This is not something someone can do for you, each us must examine our own lives, each of us must answer the call to follow Jesus.

1. **57 As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” 58 And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.”**

This guys says, I will follow you wherever you go! Jesus response is great! But just so you know, I am homeless. I have no home and nowhere to lay my head at night!

2. **59 To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” 60 And Jesus[g] said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”**

This guy, Jesus calls to follow him, and he says of course BUT first let me go bury my father... there is some debate here on what exactly is happening but what is most likely, according to Pastor Tony Evans, “this man did not have a funeral to attend, but an inheritance to receive.” Once he has financial security then he can go<sup>1</sup>

Meaning, his father is not dead yet, but when he does pass, this man will receive his inheritance and then he will be able to follow Jesus!

3. **Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” 62 Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”**

Another says, I will follow you Lord, but first let me say my goodbyes and Jesus response - you answer the call and you don't look back!

What we need to realize here... these are three different people and each of them when called, or made the claim that they would follow, each of them had some “reason” they they will but... not yet

Jesus I will follow you, I promise I will but not until **FILL IN THE BLANK**

The reality is that for many of us had we been standing there. Jesus could go down the line to each one of us and say follow me, and our response would be the same!

Maybe not the exact same answer, but we would have something that is holding us back, something hindering us from going all in, holding nothing back from having complete and total surrender to following Jesus.

This morning I want to look at 3 areas that I believe Jesus points to here in these verses.

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<sup>1</sup> Tony Evans Commentary pg 981

## 1. Choosing Comfort over the Cross<sup>2</sup>

I don't know if you have ever been homeless - like legitimately homeless but I imagine it's not comfortable

**When I lived in Durham**, a group of us moved into an under resourced community to live and the first house I lived in had no heat, no air and no insulation.

So the summers were really hot and the winters really cold. During the winter we used space heaters in our bedrooms and walking out the bedroom in the morning was like walking out the front door, you could see your breath! Take my word for it, it was uncomfortable!

My parents and my grandma came to visit around Christmas time, my grandma walked in and looked around... said to my mom “Cindy buy this child whatever he needs, Ill pay for it”

So At first glance, is Jesus telling us we need to be homeless?? That I can't own a home??? Or Dear God, please tell me I don't have to live in a place like Bryson just described!!!

I don't think that is what Jesus is getting at... **that would contradict in some ways God's promise that he cares for us and provides for us...**<sup>3</sup>

What Jesus is getting at here, is the hardships and suffering that come from following Jesus. The realization that this world is not our home... we are strangers simply passing through

That the way of Jesus is the narrow path, one with difficulty... it is not the easy way!!!

I believe that Jesus is addressing our comfort here... why? Pastor Mike addressed it last week... **“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would**

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<sup>2</sup> [David Platt “Three Questions” 4/9/14](#) (Wording taken from Point 1 of David Platt's Sermon)

<sup>3</sup> Baker Exegetical Commentary

**save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.**

Bonhoeffer would say, “When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.”<sup>4</sup>

To deny oneself is difficult, extremely difficult! Take each day, day after day, denying ourselves and taking up our cross is hard.

We love ourselves, big fans... It is so easy for us to just fade back into our own lives, to enjoy the comforts of this world, to allow the comforts we have or want to pull our attention away from the glorious gospel

And most of the time we don't even realize we are doing it... we enter into adulthood and the things of this world overtake us... we set out on the journey to get the dream job, to get married, buy a home, up I need a car to get around in

And before we know it we spend most of our time and money toiling for all of these things that mean nothing... they have no ultimate value, no eternal significance.

We want comfort, nobody likes being uncomfortable... no ones natural desire is to die to self... its just not the case.

We want the good life, we want a nice house with more space, in the right school district, in the right zip code where our property value will increase

We choose where we live based on a set of criteria - look I am not condemning anyone for the house they live in - or if those where the reasons you chose where you live...

But I believe we are called to something different and so what if we chose where we live based on what God was calling us to? Based on how we are going to be apart of the mission of God?

I believe this is true with everything... that the filter that we used to make our decisions... the guiding force for everything we do should be the mission of God???

Where we live, how we spend our money, how we spend our time... what are kids are involved in... **all of it centered and oriented around the kingdom of God and not our own.**

Nothing about the teaching and life of Jesus, nothing about how the disciples lived in light of the resurrection, **nothing about the early church says comfort instead it screams sacrifice!!!**

The call of the Christian is not a life of ease and comfort but one of willingly living in discomfort...

David Platt said, “choosing the cross over comfort is clearly a requirement for following Christ” it is a life **NOT** of self-advancement but self-denial<sup>5</sup>

Look, having a nice home in a good school districts is not a bad thing or wrong... wherever you live... **leverage it!!** Ask the question constantly “How can we leverage the home that God has given us for the kingdom”

Host your community group, if you have the space - what would it look like to let someone live with you - a college student or recent grad, someone on hard times

We are stewards of the things God has given us... and **OFTEN**times being a steward is entering into some uncomfortable spaces!

## 2. **The Call to “Follow Me” requires immediate obedience**

To the next guy, Jesus says follow me! This guy responds yes, Lord but first let me go bury by father...

There may be debate on whether this man's father is alive or not but what is clear is that **our response to the call to follow Jesus requires immediate obedience.**

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<sup>4</sup> The Cost of Discipleship by Deitrich Bonhoeffer

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<sup>5</sup> [David Platt “Three Questions” 4/9/14](#)

At first glance Jesus' response seems harsh but what we see is that there is a clear sense of urgency to going and proclaiming the kingdom of God!<sup>6</sup>

We often have a lot of hang ups when it comes to walking in obedience... we are people full of excuses and reasons why we can't do certain things...

At the end of the day, what we value most, what we love commands are attention and focus.

We get distracted by everything around us and we get down life's road and we look up and we have given our lives to so many things but most of them having no eternal significance!

**The call to follow me, reorients everything around Jesus**, he has called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light and has now given us a mission

One that we are to give all of our lives to! Not just church on Sundays or community group on Wednesdays... **that is the bare minimum** but that everything is focused on the kingdom of God

We do not have an option to follow Jesus on our own terms<sup>7</sup> we don't get to fit him into our schedules

No, in response to the grace that he has shown us, in response to the fact that Jesus has saved us from our sin, the call to follow Jesus demands our complete surrender, and that we walk in immediate obedience to his call.

### 3. **Jesus is Enough**

The last guy we see here in this passage says, "I will follow you, but first let me say farewell to my family first"

Jesus response, **"No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."**

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<sup>6</sup> [David Platt "Three Questions" 4/9/14](#)

<sup>7</sup> [David Platt "Three Questions" 4/9/14](#)

Meaning until Jesus becomes more beautiful to you than anyone or everything else, we will constantly be looking back at all of the things vying for our attention...

For this guy specifically it was those he would leave behind... but for all of us **when we answer the call to follow Jesus** we all are leaving something behind... its inevitable

**Everyone is giving their lives to something**... so before Christ you were giving your life to something... most likely can be summed up in **"You" you were giving your life to and for "you"**

But when we heard the gospel, and we said I believe - we have to turn from those things (whatever they may be) and we turn and fix our eyes on Jesus

And until Jesus becomes the object of your hearts affection, until he becomes so beautiful, so magnificent, so glorious we still look back and wonder...

The beauty of the gospel is that Jesus is making us look more and more like him, that the more we believe the gospel, the deeper we go in that belief the more and more all of the things of this world become less and less appealing...

**Until Jesus is enough we constantly live in this tension of one foot in and one foot out**

But Jesus refers to this as being **lukewarm**... lukewarm is **not** a state of just not being on fire for Jesus as they use to say... lukewarm is not a place of well Im still a Christian Im just not very committed right now

No this is what Jesus has to say about the lukewarm "Christian" "I will spit you out of my mouth" there is no such thing as a lukewarm Christian - I don't know when that phrase got put together but it couldn't be further from the truth...

To follow Jesus means **Jesus is enough** and we live our lives in complete surrender to him...

Hear me on this because this not to say that we don't struggle, that we are free from sin or seasons in which we falter

But if our response to Jesus call to follow him "Yes Lord but" then we have not reached the place where Jesus is enough, that we believe he is worth it!

Each of these 3 men had a willingness, they were eager but when pressed on what it would mean for them, what they would have to give up... they each had some reason that they couldn't just yet...

But look at the three responses... they weren't bad things, those weren't sinful things they were good things

But when good things keep us from the call that God has given us, we elevate those things to a place that they do not belong!!!

### \*\*\*Conclusion\*\*\*Vamp\*\*\*

Listen, we all got things... we got junk in our lives... we all have something that it just feels like is constantly tugging at us that pulls our eyes off Jesus

We all have that trap that we so easily fall into... we are human, not perfect and we can be so quick to turn away from Christ!

If you have been following Jesus for any length of time, **you know we forget**, we forget the beauty of Christ, who he is and what He has done for us!!!

We fall into this mundane rhythm of "following Jesus" and we forget what this call really even means... what it is that we are even called to...

We get bogged down in our desire for comfort and security, distracted by everything around us and we lose sight...

We might say not me, I am following Jesus... **but we do... we are all guilty of it because the response of our lives to the call to "follow me" is our answer**

**The call to follow Jesus is not simply a verbal response but a laying down of our lives daily for the sake of Christ...** we can say with our mouths Yes Lord, I will follow you but then with our lives live out a completely different response.

***Yes we confess with our mouths that Jesus is Lord, but if our lives functionally reject that by how we live then it doesn't matter what our lips say!***

Back in 2012 my car died, needing to get a new one... this would be the first car I bought on my own... I was determined to get exactly what I wanted...

**I bought a 2009 Chevy Malibu and I loved this thing...** white with chrome rims, chrome trim and tinted windows... interior two tone brown and beige... she was beautiful... loved this car

I kept it immaculate... we just came through pollen season... back then just about everyday I would go out in the morning and wipe the car down... boy that car was clean!!!

It didn't take long though and started having problems with it... by far the worst car I ever owned... all kinds of electrical... this thing here... this thing there! But you couldn't tell me nothing... then 2 days after I made my last payment on that car... engine died

On the outside, checked all the boxes... under the hood though... broken

Now 10 years later I drive a 2004 Honda Accord, paint fading and peeling in most places... but a rock solid car!! This car is a constant reminder for me that my life is not to be about the pursuit of things that rust away, that are temporary!!!

It's not just about a car... its most things... *we work to provide for ourselves these nice comfortable lives but what I am giving my life to???*

**Listen, there are things in this life meant to be enjoyed, and they are good gifts from God, but when God's good gifts become ultimate pursuits they are no longer good gifts but idols to be laid down on the altar.**

## Lets Pray!!!!

Look I get it... The christian life is not always easy... it was never promised to us that it would be!!

What was promised is John 10:10 that he came to offer life, life to the fullest... the beauty of this is that regardless of circumstances we are able to have joy in this life

**Jesus is saying follow me!! Is your response “Yes Lord!” Or is it Yes, Lord BUT**

**The thing I need us to see here... is we don't often realize we are saying Yes, Lord BUT...**

If i polled the room this morning, most in here would not answer this question with, Yes Lord but **fill in the blank ....** we have to take inventory of our lives often... what am I given my life to??/

Does everything I have and everything I do orient around the kingdom of God? Are we leveraging our time, talent and treasure for the kingdom of God?

Are we leveraging our homes?

In light of who Christ is and what he has done?? That Jesus who had nowhere to lay his head... gave his life on the cross to offer you life and life to the fullest

**That life is found in complete and total surrender to Christ as Lord!**

For some of you this morning, you need to confess Jesus as Lord for the first time! **And** I would love to talk with you more after the service!

Other of us, we need to take inventory of our lives... are we living solely for the kingdom of God, leveraging it all for the sake of the gospel... or is your answer Yes, Lord but...

**Who do you say Jesus is?? Your answer is not just what your lips confess, your answer is the way you sacrificially live your life!**