



## **Luke 9:23-27**

### ***“Have You Packed Accordingly?”***

Pastor Patrick Bowler

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### **Consult the Scriptures:**

#### **Luke 9:23-27**

*(Other Scripture referenced: 1 Pet. 4:12-16; Lk. 9:51, 12:4-5;  
Matt. 7:21-23; Acts 4:19-20)*

### **Consult the Scholars:**

#### **#1 James R. Edwards—**

*“When believers confess who Jesus is, they also and inevitably confess what they must become.” (James R. Edwards, *The Pillar New Testament Commentary: Luke* [Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2015], p. 279)*

#### **#2 James R. Edwards—**

*“When confronted by the call to discipleship, disciples do not have a ‘both... and’ choice—both Christ and their own lives. They stand before an ‘either... or’ choice. The claim of Jesus is a total and exclusive claim. It does not allow a convenient compartmentalization of secular and sacred, of natural life and religious life. The whole person stands under Christ’s claim.” (James R. Edwards, *The Pillar New Testament Commentary: Luke* [Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2015], p. 276-277)*

## **Discuss:**

1. It's Valley Life's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday or anniversary this week (Mar. 5, 2006). How long have you been a part of the family here and what are you thankful to God for?
2. What does it mean to "pack accordingly?" Was there ever a time where you were not prepared for a particular trip? What was that like? How did it affect the trip?
3. Read the Edwards quote #1 (above) and discuss. What is the connection between our understanding of who Jesus is and our understanding of what it means to be a follower of His?
4. Read Luke 9:23-27 and discuss. What stands out to you in this passage? What do you find particularly challenging?
5. (re: v. 23) What does it mean to "deny [yourself]?" What does it mean to "take up [your] cross?" What does it mean to "follow [Jesus]?"
6. Jesus follows up His statement in v. 23 with three supporting statements (v. 24, 25, and 26), each saying essentially the same thing. What are the similarities? What is added with each statement?
7. Read the Edwards quote #2 (above) and discuss. Talk about the "both/and" vs. the "either/or" choice to follow Christ. What is the difference?
8. What challenged you most about this week's sermon? What new insights did you take away? What questions do you still have?