



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

“The Road We’d Rather Avoid Is Where Yeshua Shapes Us”

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Passages (TLV): Luke 9:51-10:20; Luke 4:18-19; Isaiah 61:1-4; John 4:9, 23-24; Eph. 5:1
Yeshua calls us with two simple words: *“Follow Me.”* And with joy, we say yes. But often, the picture we have in our minds of what following Him will look like doesn’t match the road He actually chooses. Very quickly, we discover that Yeshua isn’t always leading us down paths that feel familiar, predictable, or safe. In fact, many times the road He leads us down is the very road we would prefer to avoid. We find ourselves saying, *“I’ll follow You—but maybe not this way.”* Instead of praying, *“Your will be done,”* we subtly begin to pray, *“My will be done—just with Your blessing on it.”*

Yet the Gospels make something very clear: Yeshua is not primarily interested in keeping us comfortable—He is committed to forming us. As the Body of Messiah, we are called to walk in His way and carry His mission. In Luke 4, drawing from Isaiah 61, Yeshua declares His purpose: good news for the afflicted, healing for the brokenhearted, freedom for the captive, and sight for the blind. And in Eph. 5:1, Paul urges us to be *“imitators of God, as dearly loved children.”* Following Yeshua means more than agreeing with Him—it means learning to walk where He walks, love how He loves, and trust Him even when the road feels uncomfortable. The road we’d rather avoid is not a mistake—it is where Yeshua shapes His people. Today, ask the Lord honestly: *Where have I been trying to follow Yeshua—on my terms?* Invite Him to reshape your expectations of what it means to walk with Him.

1. YESHUA SHAPES US BY LEADING US OUT OF WHAT’S FAMILIAR

At the center of Luke’s Gospel is the Travel Narrative—when Yeshua sets His face toward Jerusalem. *“When the days were approaching for Him to be taken up, Yeshua was determined to go up to Jerusalem”* (Luke 9:51, TLV). But the road between Galilee and Jerusalem matters, because it runs straight through Samaria. This was not the safe route. It was hostile territory, marked by centuries of pain, rejection, and distrust. Most Jews would go around Samaria—but not Yeshua. He chooses the road His disciples would rather avoid.

When the Samaritans reject Him, Jacob and John—the “Sons of Thunder”—reveal what’s in their hearts. *“Master, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?”* (Luke 9:54, TLV). But Yeshua rebukes them. His response reveals the heart of God: He did not come to destroy lives, but to save them. Samaria becomes a shaping ground—a place where comfort is stripped away and instincts are confronted. Yeshua leads His disciples out of what’s familiar, not to punish them, but to form them into reflections of *HIS* heart. Where has Yeshua been leading you out of familiarity—into places, conversations, or relationships that feel uncomfortable? Instead of resisting, ask Him what He is shaping in you there.

2. YESHUA SHAPES US BY EXPOSING WHAT WE’RE HOLDING ONTO

As the journey continues, three people step forward, each expressing a willingness to follow Yeshua. But Yeshua’s responses are startling. *“Foxes have dens and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head”* (Luke 9:58, TLV). To another He says, *“Let the dead bury their own dead. But you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God”* (Luke 9:60, TLV). And to a third: *“No one who has put his hand to the plow and looked back is fit for the kingdom of God”* (Luke 9:62, TLV). Yeshua is not being harsh—He is being honest. This road will expose distracting attachments, misguided expectations, and divided loyalties.

Plowing rocky ground requires focus. You can't look backward and stay on course. Following Yeshua through the uncomfortable and unfamiliar strips away the illusion that discipleship can remain neat, tidy, or convenient. The road shapes us by revealing what still competes for our allegiance. But this exposure is not meant to shame us—it is meant to free us. What we cling to will eventually keep us from becoming who Yeshua is shaping us to be. What excuses, comforts, or attachments might be slowing your obedience? Ask the Lord to show you where He is inviting you to release control and trust Him more fully.

3. YESHUA SHAPES US BY SENDING US WHERE THE HARVEST IS

After the three would-be followers fall away, Yeshua appoints the seventy and sends them out. *"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beg the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest"* (Luke 10:2, TLV). He sends them as *"lambs in the midst of wolves"* (Luke 10:3, TLV). This shaping road does not end in isolation—it leads into mission. Yeshua shapes His people in order to send them, often before they feel ready.

The harvest is found in the land of hostility. Samaria represents the hurting, the rejected, and those wounded by religion. Yeshua sends His followers with simplicity and humility—bringing shalom, building relationships, and trusting God with the results. Some will receive the message, others will reject it. But Yeshua reminds them—and us—that rejection is not personal. *"The one who listens to you hears ME, and the one who rejects you rejects ME"* (Luke 10:16, TLV). When we go in His name and His way, Yeshua's authority flows, captives are set free, and lives are restored. Who might be your "Samaria"? Ask God to show you where He is sending you—into ordinary, relational spaces where His love can be shared naturally.

CONCLUSION

The road we'd rather avoid is not a detour—it is the training ground where Yeshua forms His people into reflections of His heart. So the invitation is simple, but it is costly. Where is Yeshua leading you that you've been resisting? Is He calling you out of comfort? Is He revealing something you need to release? Is He sending you toward people or places you would rather avoid? This road is not easy—but it's a road He walked first. "Now, He says, "Follow me." And Yeshua never leads us where His strength will not sustain us. Surrender again—your plans, your preferences, and your path. Ask Yeshua to shape you as you follow Him, even when the road feels uncomfortable.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What does "the road we'd rather avoid" look like in your own life right now?
2. How do the reactions of the "Sons of Thunder" reflect instincts you recognize in yourself?
3. Which of Yeshua's hard sayings in Luke 9:57–62 challenges you the most, and why?
4. How does understanding Samaria as a *training ground* change the way you view opposition or discomfort?
5. Where might God be calling you to bring His Kingdom through simple, relational obedience rather than big or dramatic actions?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Avinu Malkeinu, Our Father, Our King. We thank You for calling us to follow Yeshua—not just in belief, but in the way we walk. Forgive us for the times we've resisted the road You've chosen, and for the ways we've clung to comfort instead of trusting Your hand. Shape us where it's uncomfortable. Refine our hearts, soften our instincts, and teach us to love the way Yeshua loves. Send us where the harvest is, and give us grace to walk faithfully in Your way. *B'Shem Yeshua*, in the Name of Yeshua, Amen.