

“Will You Follow the Son of Man?” Luke 9:37-62

Please Stand and Open Your Bibles to Luke 9:37-45

We are in the middle of the training of the disciples as Jesus is preparing them for what's to come. As we just read, they did not and could not understand what Jesus is going to do and at this point are going to have to learn the hard way. Jesus had asked them to follow Him and that is what they are doing. What they are going to have to learn is what does that entail? What does it mean to follow Him? Nobody ever said following Jesus is going to be an easy road. In order for us to be Christ's hands and feet we are going to have to come to the end of ourselves. As He told us last week...

Luke 9:23-24

Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. 24 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.

That thought is being carried out today as we will see several instances where that is put to the test. We must remember that these gospels were written by the Holy Spirit and put in the order they are in on purpose. So today we will see that the

lesson is titled in a question; “Will You Follow the Son of Man?”. That is what the Holy Spirit is testifying to us at this moment, will you? And if the answer is yes, what are you willing to sacrifice to accomplish it. These guys had a lot to learn and so do we so let us jump right in...

A Troubled Boy is Healed

Luke 9:37-42

Now we need to remember that Jesus has been up on the mountain with Peter, James and John and the rest were left in charge. While they were gone this man brought his son to be healed but they could not. We know from Mark's gospel what kind of spirit this was...

Mark 9:17

Then one of the crowd answered and said, “Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit.”

Now there is some discussion as to this being the reason why they could not cast it out because the Jewish exorcists would always ask the name of the demon before they would cast it out. This is just conjecture and only a possibility, but the lesson seems to be one of faith as we remember Jesus's response to the man and his request...

Mark 9:23-24

Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

The man’s answer is telling and shows the anguish and plight that this man has been through. He has had to watch his only son grow up with this horrible impairment. Tormented by a demon the father was tormented too and had brought him to the only place to find help. As he understands the role of faith in believing that Jesus can heal Him but also his own personal inability to trust that He can. This is further illustrated in what Luke does not record but Matthew points out...

Matthew 19:19-20

Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”

Now there is some question whether the Prayer and Fasting remark is in the original manuscripts as mentioned in Matthew and Mark, but the idea needs to be dealt with. What does it mean to pray and fast? Is Jesus giving us orthodoxy or orthopraxy? Is this just a religious exercise that will bring about a desired result? No. There is a much deeper lesson here. Is the person with the problem just a distraction or a hassle. Is this person just standing in the way of you reaching a goal. Are they just upsetting your little circle of life and you are just wanting to get it out of the way, so they are not taking up our time? Are you looking at this person as a problem in your way and a person with a problem? Do you really care about them? To fast and pray is a call of deep concern for someone's welfare that you can't get it out of your heart. If you are just seeking to have a problem removed from you, you are not looking at it with the heart of God. But, if you can see someone with a problem and you are willing to sacrifice your thoughts and emotions to cry out to God for their wellbeing, then you are following the Son of Man. Fasting is not a religious exercise but the response to something that in essence takes your hunger away. You care so deeply that eating is the last thing on your mind. You realize that the only hope is for Jesus to step in and help them and you won't give up until He does!

Jesus tells them again of what's coming

Luke 9:43-45

Jesus is again telling them what is about to happen, and they are unable to comprehend it. I mean why would they? Things are going great! Crowds are following Him, and great works are being done, so the idea of a suffering servant does not make sense. They have been told their whole lives that the Messiah is coming as a conquering King, and this is what they expect. This is the setting for the next set of stories...

Who's the Greatest?

Luke 9:46-48

Now here is something that they will be repeating all the way up to the Last Supper. While Jesus will be teaching them the New Covenant they are all debating who would be the greatest. We even have a story when James and John ask Jesus if they could sit at His left and right hand in His kingdom! If there was ever a group of guys who just don't get it, it is these guys. So, Jesus doesn't rebuke them but teaches them by bringing in a little child. Nobody would ever consider a little child to be a great leader or a great anybody for that matter. They are just a little kid. There is no such thing as a "Greatest" in the body of Christ. We all are supposed to be servants as it says in Mark...

Mark 9:35

And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.”

Again, just as we saw earlier are you coming to Christ for what you can get or what you can give? Will you give up your life to follow Him? Did they get it? No.

Luke 9:49-50

Now John answered and said, “Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow with us.” 50 But Jesus said to him, “Do not forbid him, for he who is not against us is on our side.”

John is now making sure he is standing up for the brand. Hey, we are following you, but this guy is not following us, so we told him to cut it out. Now what this is not saying is that we are not to point out false teachers and any other thing that is using the name Jesus for nefarious purposes. We need to understand the context. Jesus is on His way to the cross and some will follow, and others won't. This man was not starting a new movement; he is just adapting to the time. Did you know that Calvary Solid Ground does not hold the rights to Christianity?

Did you know our brand is not the only brand? This will make more sense when they outlaw Christianity. You will be surprised who is on your side! You will want them as friends and not foes.

Now if that wasn't enough...

James and John ask to call down fire!

Luke 9:51-56

Here is where we find out why Jesus named these guys “The Sons of Thunder”! The first thing we need to remember is that Jews and Samaritans did not like each other. There was no love lost between these two groups. Still thinking that Jesus is on His way to Jerusalem to be the King of the world they have the thought to bring down some OT justice on those that didn't like it. Remember the story of Elijah? He was sitting on a hill, and the evil king of Israel sent 50 soldiers to arrest him, and he called down fire to consume them. It wasn't until the third group that the commander got smart and begged for his life that Elijah went with them. But Jesus puts them in their place and reminds them of His mission, to save. One thing to point out before we move on...

Luke 9:51

Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem

Luke is pointing out that from this moment on Jesus is on His way to the cross. The rest of his gospel will focus on this latter part of his ministry. We will find a lot of parables and teachings not found in other places and are unique to Luke's account. As we move forward, we will keep in mind this interjection of Luke and especially as it relates to the last three interactions.

Luke 9:57-58

Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, "Lord, 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."

Jesus is on His way to be crucified for the sins of the world, and this one comes to him and doesn't just say he will follow Him but anywhere and everywhere. There are a lot of people that say they follow Jesus, but you can tell by their works that is just not so. Jesus replies with an idiom that reflects that of a pilgrim or a vagabond. You want to follow me? OK, even if it means you will be broke and homeless? Hated by the world? Not accepted anywhere? This is what He is saying. Following Jesus might cost you everything and are you willing to leave it all behind.

Luke 9:59-60

Then He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” 60 Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.”

Again, the idea here is sincerity. This man’s father was not dying this was just an excuse to get out of the commitment. “I got a family to take care of” or “My Family needs me more than that right now” or “I got to take care of this or that before I can commit” Jesus is not being rude just pointing out the man’s excuse. Following Jesus is more important than those things. Life goes on with or without you and there is always something that we can make an excuse about. Just like this next guy...

Luke 9:61-62

And another also said, “Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.” 62 But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

I know your first thought is man, what a meanie! I can’t even say goodbye? No, Jesus is pointing out their insincerity. You can see it by the term we can all recognize “Yeah, but” I will

follow you but...you fill in the blank. We know this by His answer. This idiom speaks of a person who is double minded. He's only halfway into the work. The picture is someone plowing and looking back is not going to be effective at plowing at all. The furrows have to be straight and require your every attention to keep it that way. Get your eyes off and you just ruined it. I think the main application of all of this is how much are you willing to give to follow Jesus? Am I more worried about my life and my world than about the kingdom of God.

Where * Do We Go From Here?

Get Personal to close...Mark Henry – Emergency Guide – Calvary's Future

Proverbs 16:9

A man's heart plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps.

Luke 9:23-24

Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. 24 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.