



Luke 9:57-62 New Revised Standard Version

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, first let me go and bury my father." ⁶⁰ And Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹ Another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." ⁶² And Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Notes _____



"Following Christ isn't something that can be done half-heartedly or on the side. It's not a label we can display when it is useful."

-Francis Chan

"Watch where you are going!" How many times have we heard or perhaps even uttered those very words? Sometimes, the sights around us have a way of drawing our attention away from what is most important: driving, riding, walking, rolling, etc. Try as we may to multitask, something else receives a bit more focus and the next thing we know we are running off of the road, stepping into hole, or bumping into somebody. Such moments can prove to be embarrassing, if not dangerous, for ourselves as well as others.

Jesus was clear with those who expressed a desire to follow him that he needed their full attention. While the words in today's sermon text may seem a bit harsh, we find that Jesus did not and still does not have room for half-time commitment to being a disciple. He will not share allegiance with other people, places, or business. Like an athlete on the field or upon the track making a move, moving toward Jesus calls for one's attention to be upon Jesus. Anything less and it is as though we are going backward.

- 1. Following Jesus requires actions more than words.**
- 2. Following Jesus calls for an assessment of priorities.**
- 3. Following Jesus demands loyalty to the task at hand.**

Prayer Pebble: Lord, in a world filled with so many distractions, commitments, and excuses, help me to maintain my focus upon Jesus without looking back. Amen.