The Gospel of Luke

The Cost of Discipleship

Luke 9:57-62

1. The Standard for the Discipleship (Luke 9:23-26)

Jesus made it clear to any who would follow Him that the path of discipleship was not to be traveled carelessly (Matt 10:37-39; Luke 14:26-33)

2. The Assertive Disciple (vs.57-58; cf. Matt 8:19-20)

A. A Bold Proclamation (v.57)

This man had obviously been moved by the teaching and ministry of Jesus to such an extent that he, unlike most, responded with a commitment to follow Jesus anywhere He went (cf. Luke 5:11; 18:28; John 21:19-22).

B. A Hard Reality (v.58)

Jesus disabused this man of any hope for finding material comfort and stability in following Jesus (cf. Mark 1:45; Luke 8:37; 9:52-53).

3. The Reluctant Disciple (vs.59-60; Matt 8:21-22)

A. A Reluctant Response (v.59)

Of the three men, this is the only one that Jesus called to follow Him. He is reluctant to drop everything and follow Jesus until after he first buries his father (Luke 5:27; 14:26; cf. Gen 49:29; 50:1-5).

B. A Clarifying Charge (v.60)

Jesus' response to this man is the most shocking of all. Instead of waiting to bury his father, this man is to allow the spiritually dead to bury him while he follows Jesus and preaches the gospel.

4. The Hesitant Disciple (vs.61-62)

A. A Half-Hearted Commitment (v.61)

In light of Jesus' interaction with the first two men, this man's request is both reasonable and it has biblical precedent (cf. 1 Kings 19:19-21).

B. A Severe Standard (v.62)

Jesus responded to would-be disciples in a way that revealed the disciple's heart (cf. Luke 10:25ff; 18:18-23).