

Luke 9:57-62 The Call of the King

To follow Jesus is to forsake the glory of the City of Man for the Kingdom of God.

- The City of Man in Luke: Rome and Jerusalem (various agendas for Jerusalem's elevation)
- The City of Man beyond Luke:
 - Goal: Glory of Man
 - Guide: Human Wisdom
 - Good: Self-love (Personal and Community Honor)

1) Following Jesus demands forsaking position in the City of Man (9:57-58).

- a) "I will follow You wherever You go."—Jesus discerns that the "wherever" implies somewhere important, ambitious, a place of honor in Jerusalem
- b) "nowhere to lay His head"—Christ has no position in the City of Man (2:7, Bethlehem; 4:29-30, Nazareth; 9:53, Samaria; 13:33, Jerusalem)
- c) Anabaptist misapplication forbidding Christians to hold positions in government
- d) Living in the present reality of the Kingdom in our various vocations—whatever the cost.

2) Following Jesus demands forsaking all allegiances in the City of Man (9:59-60).

- a) Those who stay behind are called "the dead" because they are putting their hope for the kingdom in the foolish plans of men instead of putting their hope in Jesus.
- b) Burying his father keeps the would-be disciple in a position of honor in his community by showing his primary allegiance to his family and community.
- c) Jesus demands a break from this by calling him to preach the coming of the Kingdom of God in Jesus. This preaching implicitly condemns their misplaced hope and calls them to repentance and thus to life.
- d) We love others the best when our allegiance is to Jesus as King.

3) Following Jesus demands forsaking fallback plans in the City of Man (9:61-62).

- a) To "bid farewell" is more involved than a farewell party; it involves making fitting arrangements for a separation.
- b) Jesus discerns in this request a lack of commitment to His kingdom paradigm.
- c) "No one who puts his hand to the plough and keeps looking back is fit for the kingdom of God."
 - i) This recalls the story of Elijah and Elisha (1 Kings 19:19-21).
 - ii) Yet it shows that Jesus' call will require a break with "Israel" that Elijah's did not.
- d) "Remember Lot's wife." (Luke 17:32) Just as Lot's wife shared in the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, so those who are controlled by nationalism to fight for Jerusalem against Rome will share in Jerusalem's destruction, which is ultimately not the Roman's doing, but the judgment of the Son of Man.

To follow Jesus is to forsake the glory of the City of Man for the Kingdom of God.

- Two men called Jesus "Lord," but then followed with "but first let me . . ."
- Jesus described this as "unfit" or "ill-disposed" for the Kingdom of God.
- We must repent of all of our "but firsts."

Doxology: To the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. (1 Timothy 1:17)