

No Turning Back

Luke 9:57-58 (KJV) And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain *man* said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. ⁵⁸And Jesus said unto him, **Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay *his* head.**

Have you decided to follow Jesus? Many people today cheapen Christianity to joining a social club, a corporate community or a come grow with us movement. Sadly many Churches appeal to the fleshly appetites of people to lure them into their group. In the Gospel of Luke we find Jesus doing the complete opposite of today's Church growth seminars. His message was repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Many say they want to follow Jesus but have not truly understood who it is they want to follow.

The reason the Son of man Jesus had no where to lay His Head because He was heading for the cross. There was no where on earth that could shelter this God-man destined for a cruel death. There were three railroad sized spikes and that were reserved for impaling his hands and feet against a splintery large timber. A large thorny vine was already growing that would pierce his head and scalp. Jesus began His ministry at age 29 at His baptism but He also began a lonely death march which no one could follow or join Him. Only Jesus could die for the sins of mankind and become the sin offering that cleans us from our trespasses and satisfy the requirement of Holiness from Almighty God. A life of miraculous ministry yet a crucifixion of that very life as we walk before others.

Luke 9:59-62 (KJV) And he said unto another, **Follow me.** But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. ⁶⁰Jesus said unto him, **Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.** Many times it seems that Jesus was not concerned with people's situations. Yes He is concerned but usually not about what you and I are concerned about. We are concerned about earthly things. Jesus is concerned about His father's business

Many want to follow Jesus but the things of this world hold them back. Wrong Relationships hold many people back and as Jesus said they are dead. Most scholars agree that the man in this dialogue is not asking to bury his father but was asking to stay with him for the remainder of his life. I have seen often that a new Christian will be so on fire for God and then suddenly a new relationship "miraculously" appears in their lives. Suddenly as of a mighty rushing wind they are gone! Others will begin serving God and receive pressure from parents or spouses to back off and not be so radical for Jesus. Next thing you know is the new Christian is not in church and at the family BBQ guzzling a cold one. That is why they are dead spiritually because they do not follow the things of God. There comes a time when we have to put our heavenly Father's business over that of even our closest loved ones.

⁶¹And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. ⁶²And Jesus said unto him, **No man,**

having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

Today Jesus bids us the same journey that He took two thousand years ago. We sing it in that old familiar song, "The cross before me the world behind me". "No turning back, no turning back." "Though none go with me still I will follow. No turning back." Yes we will see the same works that Jesus did and greater. We will see souls won to Christ and disciples made in His Name, but we will also walk a lifelong road bearing our own cross for all the world to see. Yes they will God doing a mighty work through us when we preach and lay hands on the sick and cast out devils in Jesus name. But just as importantly, they will also see us walking down a lonely road bearing a cross under God empowered only by God's grace and strength.

So don't fret if this you cannot seem to make a home in this old world. Abraham was a prince of God wondering from Mesopotamia to Egypt to Canaan living in tents. He was a pilgrim in this world and he was only passing through and was looking for a city whos maker and builder was God. The good news is that God has your new home being prepared for you!