

THE LIFE OF CHRIST IN THE GOSPELS
 Class #247 – Sunday AM1 June 15, 2008

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (**1 John 1:9**).

Isaiah 55:11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

Luke 9:57-62 As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, “I will follow You wherever You go.” ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, “The foxes have holes and the birds of the air *have* nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” ⁵⁹ And He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.” ⁶⁰ But He said to him, “Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God.” ⁶¹ Another also said, “I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home.” ⁶² But Jesus said to him, “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

- Background of this passage is the Lord is travelling through Samaria to Jerusalem.
- He is going there to observe the Feast of Booths in obedience to the Law of Moses.



- Sept-Oct time frame

God’s Lunar Calendar

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>DAYS</u>	<u>FEAST</u>	<u>EQUIVALENT</u>
1. Nissan	30	PO,UB, FF	Mar-Apr
2. Iyar	29		Apr-May
3. Sivan	30	PENTECOST	May-Jun
4. Tammuz	29		Jun-Jul
5. Av	30		Jul-Aug
6. Elul	29		Aug-Sep
7. Tishri	30	TRPTS, ATN, BTHS	Sep-Oct
8. Cheshvan	29/30		Oct-Nov
9. Kislev	29/30		Nov-Dec
10. Tevet	29		Dec-Jan
11. Shevat	30		Jan-Feb
12. Adar	29/30		Feb-Mar

- This occurs about 6 months before His death on the cross.
- He sent a few disciples ahead to arrange for lodging on the way.

This was customary for a King!

- When the Samaritans of that city found out He was travelling to Jerusalem, He and His disciples were not welcomed.
- He has no place to lay his head except outdoors.

In our passage (**Luke 9:57-61**), the Lord meets three people on His way to the Feast of Booths in Jerusalem.

- ❖ Each person desires to follow the Lord but their desires are conditional.
- ❖ Earthly responsibilities and concerns have a higher priority in their lives than the Lord's will and this prevents them from fulfilling God's will.
- ❖ The Lord's response to them reveals that His will was not their highest priority.

There are three things we must understand when studying this passage of Scripture:

1st - The destiny of the cross

Luke 9:51 When the days were approaching for His ascension.

- **Ascension** - ἀνάλημις – **ANALEMPSIS** – death, departure, an exodus, or ascension

⁵¹ When the days were approaching for His – departure – [through suffering at the hands of the religious leaders, death, burial, resurrection, and exodus from the world]

He was determined to go to Jerusalem;

Literally - *He established or firmly fixed His face to travel to Jerusalem.*

2nd – Thing to understand when studying this passage is what He taught His disciples in Matt. 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23.

“If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.”

There are two prerequisites to following the Lord:

First Prerequisite - **deny** oneself - ἀπαρνέομαι – **APARNEOMAI** - to refuse, to resist, or to say no

- This equates to saying no, refusing to do whatever one desires to do.
- The believer may have his plans, his dreams, and aspirations - but those things must be displaced for whatever God desires.
- The believer must yield - surrender - relinquish – hand over his plans to the Lord.

- This is the point where God begins to reveal His discernable will to the believer; when the believer's soul is malleable.
- Are you a believer that is willing to listen unconditionally?

It's not - 'God, please reveal what it is that you want me to do so I can think about whether I want to do it.'

It is - 'I am willing to do whatever it is you have prepared for me to do.'

Second Prerequisite - **take up his cross** - **αἴρω** – **AIRO** - *to lift up, or to carry.*

Literally - *to lift up the cross of His.*

ἀράτω τὸν σταυρὸν αὐτοῦ -

- ❖ The definite article governing the word *cross* is monadic and when followed by the possessive genitive it indicates each believer has a unique cross specifically designed by the Lord for him to carry.
- ❖ The cross represents the will of God for your life.
 - That will is specifically tailored by God for you; it is unique.

There is a **GENERAL** will of God – things that He wants all believers to do.

Revealed in portions of the Gospels, portions of Acts, and the New Testament Epistles

There is an **INDIVIDUAL** or **SPECIFIC** will of God –

Where He wants you to be; who He wants you to be; what He wants you to be doing.

COMPREHENSIVE AORIST tense of **αἴρω** indicates the believer must carry that cross to the finish line of life.

The Voices of each verb reveal that the decision is the believer's alone.

- The cross represents the will of God for the believer.
 - It is *being, going, and doing* whatever God has prepared beforehand for him.
 - It is an individual decision - not a family matter.
 - It does not matter what your parents, friends, or relatives think.

1st - The destiny of the cross, which was the Father's will for Him

Matt. 16:21 – He must go to Jerusalem and suffer *cf. Acts 2:22-24* He was delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God.

2nd - What He taught His disciples in Matt. 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23

"If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.

3rd - These are believers.

Luke 9:57-62 As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, “I will follow You wherever You go.”

He’s going to the cross!

This is an ignorant statement! This believer is not considering the sacrifice.

⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, “The foxes have holes and the birds of the air *have* nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”

Following Christ required a sacrifice. Following Christ required faith.

- What do the worries of the world, the love of money, and the desires for the things of this world do?
 - **Distract** the believer from focusing on God’s plan for his life.
 - **Prevent** the believer from advancing in the spiritual life.
- Does our Father provide for the birds of the air and lilies of the field?
- Does He know what you need?
- If you are a son of God through faith in Christ Jesus our Lord then you are more valuable to God than the birds of the air and the lilies of the field!

God always knows what you need.

POD: The worries of the world distract the believer from living in the present.

- Most believers live in the future.
- God wants the believer to live in the present - not for tomorrow.

God has tomorrow covered.

POD: Because God has tomorrow covered, He wants you to focus on what it is He’s prepared for you today.

⁵⁹ And He said to another, “**Follow Me.**”

The Lord knew this person desired to follow Him in his heart but the man did not express it.

But he said, “Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.”

- This is a very noble thing.
- This man’s earthly father is not dead yet.
- This man wants to go home and wait until his father dies **then** he’ll follow the Lord.

WHEN IS **THEN**? Then is in the future!

None of us know what our life will be like tomorrow! **James 4:14**

Do not worry about tomorrow – let tomorrow worry about itself. Matt. 6:34

If you spend time worrying you will not be at God's disposal to be used as He wants you to be used!

POD: We can only live the Unique Spiritual Life and fulfill the responsibility of the Church Age Believer Priesthood (CABP) in the present.

The opportunity to encourage someone today will only be here today; the opportunity to give or to pray or to help will only be here today!

GOD IS THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS TOMORROW COVERED.

POD: What we have today is all we need to do what God wants us to do.

- If we put something off until tomorrow - the opportunity will be lost.
- If this man returns home and waits for his father to die so that he can honor him with a proper service – he will not be able to follow the Lord to Jerusalem.

His opportunity will be lost.

⁶⁰ But He said to him, “Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God.”

- The man is a believer and God's will is for him to go and preach the kingdom message while the King is still present.
- That's why the Lord said, “Allow the dead [*spiritually dead*] to bury their own dead – but as for you believer, you tend to things pertaining to spiritual service because those who have rejected me cannot.

⁶¹ Another also said, “I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home.”

What wonderful sentimentality.

Family gets in the way of fulfilling the will of the Lord when family is a higher priority than Christ.

- This man's commitment was to family before the Lord.
- The Lord, His Word, and Plan should come before all things.
- All activities of life should take a backseat to fulfilling the plan the Lord has for you.

⁶² But Jesus said to him, “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

“putting his hand to the plow” - after beginning work in the service of the Lord

“fit for the kingdom of God.” - is fit for service in the kingdom of God

Reason: If you start out with one hand on the plow and a switch in the other to guide the ox and look back, the track of that plow will be crooked.

The trench will be curved and that type of service is not fit for the Lord.

- ❖ Why do we look back to the past?
- ❖ Why do we look forward to the future?

And why do we let these things distract us for today?

Lack of faith in the Lord!

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard Bible (NASB) unless otherwise noted.