

“Things Accomplished Among Us” (Luke 1:1)

Selected Reflections From Luke

Discipleship Defined

Luke 9:57-62

I’m reading from Luke 9:57-62

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” 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.” To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” And Jesus^{sa} said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem and He knew what would happen after His arrival. This, however, did not take any edge off of His purpose to teach those around Him.

At various places in Luke there are **paragraphs that define discipleship**. Sometimes using images, direct instruction, questions or – in this case – Jesus responding to people.

Please observe in this passage, the statement of commitment, “I will follow you.” Jesus responds with what is involved in following Him. After that, there are statements of commitment, but with attachments.

It is like, “Yes, I will follow you, but...” And so, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father,” or, “...let me first say farewell to those at my home.”

These attachments to the commitment seem innocent in themselves. But here’s what we discover. Commitment to Jesus Christ cannot have attachments, conditions, procrastination or

excuses. **Following Jesus cannot be something you do after you do something else.**

Everything in the book of Luke and everything after the book of Luke establishes the wholehearted commitment and priority of following Jesus Christ, without any attachments to that promise.

-Warren E. Berkley