

The Gospel of Luke

Lesson 22: Luke 9:57-10:24

“Can you picture the distress of a farmer when he sees his fields golden with harvest, and there are no servants to gather that harvest in? It was such an agony that filled the heart of Jesus as He looked out on *His* harvest field” (Morrison).

Christ said, “*Follow Me*” (Luke 9:59); “labor in My field” (10:2). His invitation was simple and attractive to the masses, but it contained radical implications for the few who chose to accept. Christ’s employ would cost them comfort and safety, family and friends, possessions, careers and dreams; it would cost them their very lives.

But for those who believed that Christ was worth everything they had to give, the demands and sacrifices were not a cost, but a delight. With their hand on the plow, they forsook all, believing Christ when He said, “*Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life*” (Luke 18:29-30).

Read Luke 9:57-62.

1. Three men are presented with a choice that will lead to greater intimacy with Christ. Why does Christ caution all men to count the cost before they begin? (Luke 14:28, 9:23-25)
2. The first of three potential followers was a scribe (Matthew 8:19). According to John 9:22, the Jewish leaders had decided that anyone who had any association with Christ would be excommunicated. What was this man willing to sacrifice in order to follow Christ? What does this reveal about his devotion?
3. Like the Rich Young Ruler (Mark 10:7-22), the scribe’s enthusiasm waned once he learned of the associated costs. What did he place before the will of God?

4. The Greek word for *lay* in verse 58 is *klino*. The next time this word appears is in John 19:30. What additional insight does this verse provide regarding Jesus' words to the scribe?

5. Reread Luke 9:59-60. What stood in the way of this man's obedience to Christ's call?

6. Many commentators agree that Christ was not forbidding this man to bury his father; his father had not yet perished. Instead, Christ was confronting this man's desire to put off discipleship. Why mustn't a man allow inconvenience to dictate his decisions?

7. Many men have said, "I will follow Christ when...", only to find that they are never free from obligation. How have you allowed everyday responsibilities to keep you from pursuing greater intimacy with Christ?

8. Additionally, the second potential follower allowed familial obligation to keep him from following Christ. While this passage is not encouraging individuals to evade familial responsibility (1 Timothy 5:8), it does caution against allowing human affection to stand between them and Christ. According to Matthew 10:34-39, why must a man love Christ first and best?

9. Return to Luke 9. It is highly likely that the second potential follower was putting off discipleship in order to secure his inheritance. How might his association with Christ and his decision to follow Him consequently affect him?

17. What qualities are required to effectively plow a field? Why are these necessary to the man who chooses to follow Christ?

Continue reading in Luke: chapter 10, verses 1-24.

18. Considering the three potential followers (9:57-62), why are the laborers few? (v.2)

19. If the harvest is great and the laborers few, what does this mean for those who accept Christ's employ?

20. The parallel passage in Matthew 9:37-38, reveals that the phrase "send out" (Luke 9:2) has the idea of going out with force: pushing forward, expelling, thrusting or driving one out from his place. Why might it be necessary to force the laborers from their place? (Consider Acts 8:1, 4.)

21. The cities of Sodom, Tyre and Sidon were marked by their depravity, but Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum witnessed even greater works of God and willingly chose to reject the Messenger. What does this reveal about one's accountability to the things he sees and hears?

22. To whom can the success or rejection of the disciples' message be attributed? (v.16)
What should be their greatest concern?

23. Reread verses 17-20 of Luke 10. List the hardships and successes of the seventy's service.

24. How might they have gauged success? (v.17) What should be the Christian worker's greatest source of comfort and joy? (v.20) Why?

25. Reread Luke 10:21-24. What brought Christ great joy?

26. According to verses 23-24, in what ways were the seventy uniquely blessed?

Finally, David Guzik notes, "The work of the seventy disciples as described in Luke 10, shows ways that we can go forth to serve Jesus and spread His message:

- *The harvest is great:* We do the work knowing how big the job is.
- *The laborers are few:* We do the work knowing that we have a key job.
- *Pray the Lord of the harvest:* We do the work with a lot of prayer.
- *Go your way:* We are to actually go and do the work.
- *Like lambs among wolves:* We do the work making ourselves vulnerable, letting God be our strength.
- *Carry neither:* We do the work without reliance upon anything except the gospel and power of God.
- *Greet no one:* We do the work not allowing social obligations to hinder our work.
- *Whatever house you enter:* We do the work expecting that God will bring help and provision.
- *Eating and drinking such things as they give:* We do the work not being hung up on minor points.
- *Heal the sick:* We do the work looking to minister to the whole person with the power of God.

- *Say to them, “The kingdom of God has come near to you”*: We do the work preaching that the King and His kingdom are here.
- *But whatever city you enter, and they do not receive you, go out into its streets*: As we do the work, we don’t waste our time on those who are rejecting the gospel.
- *He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me*: We do the work remembering whom we represent.
- *The seventy returned with joy*: We do the work expecting God to do more than we expect.
- *Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit*: We do the work knowing that Jesus has so much joy when we do His work.”