

Good Shepherd, Beaver Dam  
Luke 9:51-62  
June, 2022

Today Jesus says to us, "Follow Me. Be My disciples." And we say "Yes" but do we know what we are getting ourselves into? Jesus is going to Jerusalem to the cross. That's what our text says, When the days drew near for Jesus to be taken up, He set His face to go to Jerusalem. Jesus had come to this planet to give up His life as the sacrifice for sin. Jesus would do all that had to be done. To accomplish that, Jesus had to go to Jerusalem.

Jesus set His face to go to Jerusalem. Some of the disciples hoped that Jesus would go to Jerusalem and set Himself up as the Messiah and lead Israel to greatness and glory.

You can almost hear the disciples saying, "Go, Jesus, go!" Perhaps they might get some high positions of power in the new administration! "Go, Jesus, go!"

But, Jesus had talked about His future in Jerusalem. He said that He must suffer many things and be rejected by the priests and scribes and be killed, and on the third day be raised. Being killed doesn't sound very good at all! Maybe, Jesus should rethink this journey.

Jesus set His face to go to Jerusalem. That meant Jesus was determined to go – nothing was going to stop Jesus from going! Jesus had to finish what He had come to earth to do. Jesus had to die. There was no other way to accomplish our salvation. Jesus had to go to Jerusalem to die.

If we are going to follow Jesus, it will be to His cross. But really, it's the best thing that could happen. Only by going to Jerusalem, only by going to the cross, could Jesus win

salvation for us and for the whole world! Jesus took up our burden of sin and carried that monstrous load to the cross!

If Jesus had not done that, we would be sunk, toast, doomed, however you want to say it. If Jesus had not gone to Jerusalem our sin would have condemned us to hell. We have not loved God as we should. We have not loved others as we should. That is sin and it comes with consequences. God's Law condemns us and the punishment is an eternity - in hell.

But Jesus went to Jerusalem. Jesus was determined to go to the cross. Nothing was going to stop Him, nothing! When we get to heaven, we will thank Jesus because Jesus did all that had to be done. We are clean of the filth of our sin because the blood of the Son of God washed that filth away!

But there is more! Jesus not only died for us, He rose from the dead and because Jesus arose, we will also rise from the dead! We will live forever! Something else to thank Jesus for!

We trust in Jesus. We believe that Jesus died and rose again. We have been baptized in His name. We are members of God's family of believers. We have an eternal home waiting for us! All this is good news!

This world is looking for peace and not finding it. We have peace with God! Our Father in heaven is watching out for us. He knows our needs. Jesus is at the right hand of God making sure that everything works out for our good. The Holy Spirit lives in us strengthens us so we remain in faith. If God is for us, who or what can be against us? We are conquerors through God who loves us!

With all that in mind we can now hear what following Jesus will mean for us in the future.

A would-be-follower comes to Jesus and says, I will follow You wherever You go. Following Jesus is no guarantee of happiness. Jesus told the man, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.

God does not promise Christians wealth in this life. But God does promise to take care of us. God knows what we need. If God takes care of the animals, the birds, the insects, and the sea creatures, the Lord will certainly take care of us for we are of more value than they are. We have a life waiting for us in eternity that far exceeds anything we can ever imagine!

To another man Jesus said, Follow Me. This fellow wants to delay. He has other priorities in his life. He said, Lord, let me first go and bury my father. But Jesus said, Leave the dead bury their own dead. As for you, go, proclaim the kingdom of God. God does not ask us to quit our jobs and leave our parents, but God does ask us to give our hearts, our souls, and our lives to Him. When Jesus calls, don't wait until it is more convenient for you to follow Him!

Another person said to Jesus, I will follow You, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home. Jesus does not want any looking back in life as to what might have been. Jesus said, No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.

**To be a follower of Jesus means to be ready to redo the list of our priorities in this life!**

The life of a Christian will not always be easy. Sometimes life can be very difficult. People will disappoint us. Problems will occur every so often. Don't worry about those things. Don't let "things" pull you away from Jesus and His Church. Following Jesus means

staying the course through life to the life to come!

Just don't forget Jesus, He is our Good Shepherd, guiding us, protecting us, and leading us on our way!

So let's follow Jesus! The same Jesus who went to Jerusalem was determined to do everything to free us from the shackles of sin. The same determination of Jesus should be ours as we follow Jesus through any problems that may plague our life. The Lord promises to be with us – forever!

Jesus is calling us today. Following Jesus is the best place to be. He is the One who loves us so much that He gave up His life so we could live with Him eternally. Jesus will always keep His promises. Following Jesus in faith is the only way to go.

Amen

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