

## **Encounters With Jesus**

### ***The Would-Be Disciples***

(Luke 9:57-62)

- Introduction:**
1. Have you ever experienced a “fine-print” problem, only to be disappointed and feel taken advantage of?
  2. What this passage teaches us is that Jesus doesn’t communicate to us in “fine-print.”
  3. Jesus is straightforward and wants you to know exactly what is required and what to expect in becoming his disciple.
  4. The passage we’re discussing today may sound a bit harsh, but remember...
    - a. We may not be acquainted with customs of that day.
    - b. Jesus could read the hearts of these men.
    - c. Jesus was going to battle, and he didn’t need fainthearted disciples.
  5. What I would like to accomplish in this lesson is to take the “edge” off of Jesus’ words but preserve the rigorous demands of total commitment.

#### **I. The Impulsive Would-Be Disciple**

- A. (Luke 9:57-58).
- B. What an offer!
  1. I will follow.
  2. I will follow anywhere.
  3. This offer came from one who was a Scribe (Matthew 8:19).
- C. However, Jesus looking into his heart knew that he didn’t grasp the significance of his words.
  1. He had probably seen large crowds, miracles, and enthusiasm, but had not considered self-denial, sacrifice, and suffering.
  2. Ills. Earnest T. Bass wanting a uniform.
- D. Notice that Jesus neither accepted or rejected this man’s offer, but left it for him to make a decision upon the facts.
- E. He was telling him to “count the cost.”

#### **II. The Indecisive Would-Be Disciple**

- A. (Luke 9:59-60).
- B. The first would-be disciple volunteers, but this one had to be asked – “Follow me.”
- C. Jesus’ response to this would-be disciple seems harsh but consider some of these factors that may soften the harshness.
  1. Though burials usually occurred the same day, the other funeral activities lasted for more than a week.

2. There is nothing in the text that actually states that the father has died. His response could be a delay tactic – an excuse.
  3. Remember, Jesus knew the hearts of men and could cut through what we could not know.
- D. The sad word of this would-be disciples was “first.” – First, let me go... (Matthew. 6:33).
- E. No matter what stage in life we may find ourselves, there are always excuses.

### III. The Indefinite Would-Be Disciple

- A. (Luke 9:61-62).
- B. Again, the request seems reasonable, but consider.
1. In Eastern countries, “goodbyes” could literally take months.
  2. Furthermore, what influence could be exerted upon him to change his mind?
- C. Ills. of woman in Honduras.
- D. Jesus again, knowing his heart, tells him he can’t go back.

- Conclusion:**
1. What do we learn from this short encounter with Jesus?
    - a. Count the cost.
    - b. Jesus must come first.
    - c. There can be no looking back.
  2. These truths are just as applicable today as they were when Jesus first spoke them.
  3. What about you? Will you follow Jesus?