

ENEMIES OF DISCIPLESHIP PT. 1

LUKE 9:57-58

Text: Luke 9:57-58

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⁵⁷ And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain *man* said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. ⁵⁸ And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air *have* nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay *his* head.

Introduction:

The Lord Jesus invited would-be disciples to follow Him. He did not exaggerate the experience of walking in His footsteps by saying, "It will be a wonderful life!"

He did not lure followers with promises of better health and more wealth as some of His so-called spokesmen do today.

Instead, He wanted His followers to know that there would be tough times and He wanted them to right understanding of this.

The last six verses of Luke chapter nine depict three enemies of discipleship. We will see that these enemies defeat more would-be disciples than any physical foes.

We will see that these are very real and dangerous enemies.

The first one is in verses 57 and 58 and this is what we read:

Read Text:

The first enemy that we meet is impulsiveness. Impulsiveness is an enemy of discipleship. The dictionary tells us that “impulsive” means:

1. characterized by actions based on sudden desires, whims, or inclinations rather than careful thought
2. based on emotional impulses or whims;
spontaneous

The advertising industry and the merchants in America capitalize upon what is called “impulse buying.” That is, spur-of-the-moment decisions made to satisfy a whimsical notion, a passing fancy or a sudden desire.

Impulsive decisions are not limited to the area of merchandise. Unfortunately, there are impulsive, rash and hasty decisions being made in the spiritual realm as well. Numerous are the persons who leap before they look!

They make spur-of-the-moment decisions which do not last. Impulsiveness is bad on the budget – but in the spiritual realm it can be catastrophic.

Impulsiveness can be seen throughout the scriptures. It caused:

- Esau to sell his birthright for soup
- Samson to forfeit his physical prowess
- David to commit adultery

Notice:

1. HIS OPPORTUNITY

What a great opportunity this man had. The fame of the Lord had spread and news that the Lord, was coming along the road had preceded Him.

Crowds gathered to see Him. There He comes with His disciples! Perhaps He will perform some miracle here; maybe He will give one of His sermons here. What an opportunity to see and hear this famous Person!

One man in the crowd was perhaps thinking: “I would like to go with Him, I could listen to Him all the time, I could see Him perform miracles – it would be exciting to accompany a famous person. What a golden

opportunity this is! I have heard it said, ‘opportunity knocks but once’ – this must be my opportunity to be something, to do something worthwhile, I think I’ll go with Him!”

2. HIS OVERTURE

When Jesus drew near this man blurted out, "Lord, I will follow You wherever You go."

This man seems to be warm-hearted, charming, enthusiastic, confident, willing and zealous. He seems to offer his service without limit or reserve; there isn’t a trace of insincerity; it seemed like a genuine decision; he seemed anxious to follow; on the surface, it seems he meant business!

3. HIS OVERSIGHT

Luke 9:58

⁵⁸ And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air *have* nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay *his* head.

The answer of the Lord seems strange at first reading.

He must have read the man’s mind. Jesus was saying: “following me isn’t going to be easy – are you certain you know what you are saying?”

Christ's answer reveals a man who was easily swayed by the feeling of the moment; he was the victim of sudden impulse; he was moved by superficial excitement.

Maybe he had sat and heard Jesus speak the beautiful beatitudes on the hillside; or perhaps he was at the lakeside when Jesus taught the crowd from the boat. He could have listened to those wonderful words every day.

Now, as Jesus passed by he called out: "I will follow you!" Jesus response to him seems harsh at first, but a studied look reveals that this man had not calculated the cost of discipleship.

Don't make the fatal mistake that this man made, but say,

"Jesus, I my cross have taken,
All to leave and follow thee;
Destitute, despised, forsaken,
Thou, henceforth, my all shall be."

4. HIS OBSCURITY

When Jesus said, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head," silence followed. He was probably thinking, "I

thought it would be easy; that's not the kind of life I want." But he said nothing in response to Jesus.

This man's zeal suddenly faded; His zeal plunged to zero; He was excited but not enlightened; He was fascinated but not consecrated; He was superficial but not spiritual;

He was not ready to "endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." He was not prepared "to run with patience the race that was set before him." He wanted to bear the name but he did not want to share the shame; He wanted the rewards of identifying with Christ but he did not want to run any of the risks! He faded into obscurity. We never hear from him again.

Close:

- What are some of the lessons that we can learn from this man?
- Understand what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.
- Count the cost and be willing to pay the price to company with Christ.
- If you are willing to start be willing to stick.

- If you say, “I will follow Jesus” make sure you are willing to go where He leads.
- The greatest enemy to discipleship is not someone or something external to ourselves. The greatest enemy is within us.

Illustration:

During the Revolutionary War, George Washington came, with his troops, to a stream called Brandywine Creek. After they had crossed he said, “Burn the bridge, from here on out it is victory or death!” When we commit to follow Christ we burn our bridges to the past and set our faces to the future. Walking in His footsteps will be a victorious journey for Christ knows no defeat.

Let us determine to do as the song says:

“I have decided to follow Jesus,
No turning back, no turning back.”