

# ENEMIES OF DISCIPLESHIP PT. 2

## LUKE 9:59-60

Text: Luke 9:59-60

### **Luke 9:59-60**

<sup>59</sup> And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. <sup>60</sup> Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.

Introduction:

Enemies of the good are all around us, however, our worst enemies are within us. We see this demonstrated in the last six verses of Luke chapter nine, where we read about three inward enemies of discipleship.

In the previous message we examined the enemy of “impulsiveness” revealed in the man who said, “Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And the Lord said to him:

### **Luke 9:57-58**

<sup>57</sup> 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. <sup>58</sup> 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.

After his impulsive overture to the Lord, he fades away, not willing to pay the cost of discipleship.

We come now to Luke 9:59-60 where we meet another enemy of discipleship: indifference. Here in this man we see gross indifference. Let us analyze the heart of Mr. Indifference as follows:

## **1. THE DEMAND THAT CONFRONTS INDIFFERENCE (VS. 59)**

### **Luke 9:59**

<sup>59</sup> And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.

Jesus was drawing near to the close of His earthly ministry; He was on His way to the cross.

### **Luke 9:51**

<sup>51</sup> And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,

It was in this spirit that He speaks to the man who is the object of our attention.

As Jesus walked along He saw this young man by the roadside and said to him, “follow me”. But, as we shall see, this man was totally indifferent to the claims of the Lord.

Let us explore this man's encounter with the Lord Jesus.

- A. There is the question of Acquaintance
- B. There is the question on Reliance
- C. There is the question on Compliance

These are the issues with which the man, whom Jesus addressed, was confronted.

To remain along the roadside is to be indifferent.

We are startled by the response this man gives –  
“Suffer me first to go and bury my father.”

## **2. THE DELAY THE CHARACTERIZES INDIFFERENCE**

Notice the excuse he offered; “Suffer me first to go and bury my father.”

- A. The Excuse He Gave

On the surface this man's excuse seems very sincere and touching.

What is a more legitimate reason to be excused, at least temporarily, than that? However, this man was insincere as well as indifferent.

He wasn't being honest because the custom there and then was that the buried the dead within 24 hours and then they didn't leave home for 10 days.

**Numbers 19:11**

<sup>11</sup> He that toucheth the dead body of any man shall be unclean seven days.

**Numbers 19:14**

<sup>14</sup> This *is* the law, when a man dieth in a tent: all that come into the tent, and all that *is* in the tent, shall be unclean seven days.

**B. The Exchange He Made**

This man chose:

- A life without Christ instead of life with Christ
- The status quo instead of the privilege to company with Christ
- The temporal over the eternal
- That which was a secondary importance over that which is of primary importance

### **Matthew 6:33**

<sup>33</sup> But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Note again the context when the Lord called these people:

### **Luke 9:23-27**

<sup>23</sup> And he said to *them* all, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. <sup>24</sup> For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. <sup>25</sup> For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away? <sup>26</sup> For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and *in his* Father's, and of the holy angels. <sup>27</sup> But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God.

The choice that this man made is the choice that the majority of people choose today.

Let us take one last look at the man beside the highway. He had such potential but now he is to be pitied. He is in the paralyzing grip of indifference. There is one further proof of this man's indifference – not only do we see the Demand that Confronts Indifference and the Delay that Characterizes Indifference, we also see,

### 3. THE DEFECT THAT CONFIRMS INDIFFERENCE – (VS 59)

#### **Luke 9:59**

<sup>59</sup> And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.

The defect that confirms his defect is found in two words – “me first.”

This attitude reveals:

#### A. A Defective View of Discipleship

A disciple is a follower – the one who follows is never in front of the Leader! The Lord dealt with the “me first” attitude back in the discipleship pledge in v. 23 when He said,

#### **Luke 9:23**

<sup>23</sup> And he said to *them* all, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

The “me first” defect not only reveals a defective view of discipleship but it reveals:

#### B. A Defective View of Lordship

“Lord” means – number One or first place. This man was saying to the Lord – I am number one not You.

Me first reveals indifference to:

- The Person of Jesus Christ
- The Priorities of Jesus Christ

All other demands are secondary to the claims of Christ upon our lives.

- The Purpose of Jesus Christ

**Luke 19:10**

<sup>10</sup>For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Close:

This man did not respond positively to the Son Of God, not because of his father's death; not because of persecution; not because he did not have the opportunity; but because of indifference toward Jesus Christ due to his desire to save his life for himself!

There are two kinds of church members: those who say "me first" and those who say "Christ first." Christ first Christians have their priorities in proper alignment and their lives reflect it.

We have met a man who met the Master, but who refused to be mastered by Him – He lost the greatest opportunity of His life! This man has millions of

companions today. They too have heard the Lord's call, "Follow Me," but because of indifference they remain along the roadsides of life pursuing earthly interests.

Illustration:

Many years ago, in the early days of Princeton University, which was founded as a Christian University by godly men and women, a spiritual awakening was taking place. A student named Aaron Burr was moved to seek God. He went to the President of the University and said, "Mr. President, I have made up my mind to consider the claims of Christ upon my life. Mr. President, what would you do?" The President said, "Burr, if I were you, I would wait until the excitement has subsided and then give it some thought." Aaron Burr bowed his head a moment, and then said, "Mr. President, that is exactly what I will do." And never again in his life did Aaron Burr express a desire to be a Christian. Aaron Burr later killed Alexander Hamilton in a duel.

Indifference is a deadly enemy of spiritual desire and discipleship. Will you decide today to follow Jesus?