

# ENEMIES OF DISCIPLESHIP PT. 3

## LUKE 9:61-62

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<sup>61</sup> And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. <sup>62</sup> And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

Introduction:

The enemies of discipleship are many. The major categories are: the world, the flesh and the devil and each has its sub-divisions. We have often heard it said, "We are our own worst enemy." That is certainly borne out in the passage in Luke chapter nine that we have been studying. In these verses we have three self-defeating enemies that kill off our better selves. They have one thing common: they also kill discipleship!

Illustration:

The Great Wall of China is one of the world's great wonders. They built it so high that no one could get over it. And they built it so thick that no one could tunnel through it. They built this gigantic wall for their safety and security and built it so well that parts of it still exist today after many centuries. The people of

China felt that the wall was impregnable and that their future was secure behind the wall. But in the first 100 years of its existence China was invaded three different times. The enemy did not come over the wall or tunnel through it but each time China was invaded, the enemy came through a gate left open for them by enemies inside! While the people of China lived in relative safety and security behind the wall, they failed to teach their children integrity and patriotism and they sold out to the enemy who bribed them to leave the gates unlocked and unguarded. The enemy outside invaded their land because of enemies on the inside!

We have already considered two enemies of discipleship – Impulsiveness, and Indifference. The third enemy that we will look at today is the enemy Indecision.

## **1. AN ACTUAL CASE OF INDECISION**

### **Luke 9:61-62**

<sup>61</sup> And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. <sup>62</sup> And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

This man is an excellent example of how indecision can be an enemy of discipleship.

First look at:

## A. His Resolve (vs. 61)

### **Luke 9:61**

<sup>61</sup> And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.

This man could well have sung: "I am resolved no longer to linger, charmed by the world's delight; things that are nobler, things that are higher, these have allured my sight."

Have you made that resolve? I hasten to add, as commendable as good resolves are, resolve alone is not enough. Do not overlook this man's reserve.

## B. His Reserve (vs. 61)

### **Luke 9:61**

<sup>61</sup> And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; **but** let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.

Right before our eyes this holy and beautiful resolve begins to dissolve. He said, "I will follow thee but ...."

How sad. We had such high hopes for this young man.

He seemed so sincere, so intent when he volunteered.

But now he amends the original intention, he adds an addendum, he attaches a condition, he has a reservation - "I will follow thee but first ...."

What reservation do you have? How does the fine print in your commitment to Jesus Christ read? I will follow you but, what? This little word of three letters has side-tracked many a would be follower of Jesus.

### C. His Request (vs. 61)

#### **Luke 9:61**

<sup>61</sup> And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.

This request may appear to be a very innocent one on the surface. However, Jesus saw here a half-hearted man. A farewell visit might be safe for others but not for this would be follower. Jesus knew that a final farewell for this fellow would be fatal. A pity party would have ruined him.

Under the warmth of his home surroundings, with his family and friends, his courage would melt. For this man to make one last trip home would mean farewell to discipleship.

And, consider this: while he was home bidding farewell to his family what was Jesus to do? Sit on the curb and wait for him? How long will he be gone? We are to follow Jesus according to His time-table, not ours! It is His agenda that must take precedence, not ours!

## D. His Rebuke (vs. 62)

### **Luke 9:62**

<sup>62</sup> And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

Jesus' rebuke is firm, fitting and final. It substantiates our superstitions of this man's indecisive spirit.

Now that we have been introduced to this man: His Resolve, Reserve, Request and Rebuke, let us examine his spiritual affliction:

## **2. THE FATAL CURSE OF INDECISION**

Indecision was the curse that neutralized him.

Decision is making a choice between alternatives.

Indecision is hesitancy or refusal to make a choice. It is a wavering between possible courses of action.

Indecision is an age old curse.

Making right decisions is work! It requires thinking and for the Christian, searching of God's Word, prayer and meditation.

Many prefer someone else to make their decisions for them.

Let me be more precise: this man was undecided because he was torn between two alternatives. He was faced with the dilemma of dual loves and dual loyalties.

Consider the following:

### A. The Matter of Dual Loves

This man was torn between family and faith.

We are to love our family but when love for them transcends our love for the Lord we have to put Him first. When love for God and love for other humans come into collision, God must come first.

#### **Matthew 10:37-39**

<sup>37</sup> He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. <sup>38</sup> And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

### B. The Matter of Dual Loyalties

The Lord made it very clear that no man can serve two masters.

#### **Matthew 6:24**

<sup>24</sup> No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

As this man stands before Jesus, He is thinking about going onward with the Lord and he is thinking about going home. Jesus' rebuke in v. 62 reveals that this man was longingly looking in two directions at once. The curse of indecision had neutralized him.

James states:

**James 1:8**

<sup>8</sup> A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways.

Illustration:

A young couple was lost on a rural road when they spotted a farmer. They stopped and asked, "Sir, could you give us some directions? The farmer replied, "yes, where do you want to go?" They both answered at the same time, but each gave different destinations which were in opposite directions. The farmer scratched his head and replied, "Trying to go in both directions at once is a going to be mighty hard on your car, isn't it?"

Indecision is a curse to discipleship, because the undecided are torn between two loves and two loyalties. That is the paralyzing effect of the curse of indecision.

Someone once wrote:

"On the plains of hesitation bleach the bones of countless millions who, at the dawn of victory, sat down to wait - and waiting, died."

### **3. THE SCRIPTURAL CURE FOR INDECISION**

How does one break out of the grip of spiritual indecision? How do you make up your mind about following Christ devotedly? The answer is in this passage of scripture upon which we have been meditating.

The cure for indecision is suggested in these words from the lips of Jesus:

#### **A Follow Your Holiest Desires**

If there is any stirring in your heart to yield to Christ's call; if any promptings to pursue heaven's agenda; if any interest in following Christ; yield to those desires – immediately! Delay is deadly.

#### **B. Focus on Life's Highest Purpose**

Life's highest purpose is to live for Jesus Christ!

#### **Philippians 1:21**

<sup>21</sup> For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.



## C. Face the Fact of Judgment

### **Romans 14:10**

<sup>10</sup> But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

Close:

Moses led people who were, at times, indecisive. Listen to his straight-forward challenge to them:

### **Deuteronomy 30:19-20**

<sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: <sup>20</sup> That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, *and* that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he *is* thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

Choose! We are made by our choices. The three men in Luke 9 made wrong choices! These three men represent three of the many enemies of discipleship. Look one last time at them:

One was Impulsive

One was Indifferent

One was Indecisive

The French Foreign Legion had a motto: “If I stumble pick me up; If I falter push me on; If I retreat shoot me.” There was to be no indecision.

Many Christians, with all their mental faculties, have the same problem in the realm of the spiritual. Let us make up our minds to follow Jesus Christ and do it now!