

Seize the Day

Luke 9:57-62

*“Jesus told him, “Foxes have dens, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head.”- **Luke 9:58***

Main Point: When we trust God to do BIG things we will overcome any obstacles that arise by choosing to follow Him.

Introduction: Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

Describe a time recently when you “seized the day” to accomplish something long overdue. How did it feel?

What were your priorities when you were younger? What life events or experiences have caused your priorities to change over the years?

Jesus had become quite a prominent figure during his ministry in and around Jerusalem. He had many followers, or fans, but when it came down to the nitty gritty, he didn't have a lot of true disciples. The people in our text came to Jesus thinking that a life following him might prove easy or beneficial. But Jesus pointed out quickly, and honestly, the challenges involved in seeking a relationship with him. Those obstacles, and the struggle to make our relationship with Him a top priority, is still something we must grapple with today in the 21st century. Jesus indicates some of the key influences that can distract from an abundant life in Him.

Have a volunteer read Luke 9:57-62. Some obstacles on the road to following Jesus are:

1) **THE COST. Read Luke 9:57-58 again.**

What kind of things was Jesus telling this man it would cost him to follow? How had Jesus been paying the price and how can we relate to that today in our own Christian walk?

Read **Matthew 16:24-27**. What did Jesus mean when he said “take up your cross?” What did He indicate is more precious than anything in this world? Why?

When Jesus told these men to follow him and they decided it wasn't worth the cost, they missed out on experiencing a life with Him. Describe a time you chose to accept the comforts of the world over following him. What did you learn from your experience?

2) **THE COMMITMENT. Read Luke 9:59-60.**

What do you think Jesus meant by saying, "Let the dead bury their own dead?"

What was the man allowing to take precedence over following Jesus? How do we do this today, i.e. - What do we commit to over and above Jesus?

How can you personally commit this week to putting the Lord first in all things? What changes would you need to make, or schedules rearranged?

3) **THE CHALLENGE. Read Luke 9:61-62.**

As is typical, Jesus uses an agricultural illustration to make a point with the third man. What significance would a plow have if the one driving it looks backwards? What kind of crop/harvest is Jesus referring to in the Kingdom of God?

How have you "looked back" in your walk with the Lord? What are some ways you can look forward and make an impact on His Kingdom this week? Discuss.

What stuff in your past do you need to let go of in order to focus on Christ? Why is this such a challenge? Read **Philippians 4:13** and **Matthew 24:13** for encouragement.

Apply It:

When it comes to the cost of following Jesus, where do you need to surrender selfishness? What commitments do you need to let go of in order to commit more fully to the Lord? Where do you need to be challenged in your faith and walk with Jesus? Consider these questions and write down your spiritual goals for this year.

Pray:

Lord, as we consider the price you paid for our souls may you challenge us through your Holy Spirit to commit our lives wholly to you and your Lordship. May the cost of following you never deter us from choosing a life sold out to doing your will. We pray for our church that we would bring a testimony and witness to the world around us of your love and power in 2018. Amen.

Coming up at VillageChurch:

Feb. 4th - Super BIG Sunday (Wear your favorite team jersey; invite family and friends to be on your Fantasy Team)

March 18th - The BIG Serve

April 22nd - BIG Tent Revival