

“The Cost of Discipleship” Part 3
Mount of Olives | March 8, 2026 | Luke 9:57-62
Pastor John Steward

Prayer of the Day

Heavenly Father, so often we become consumed by the busyness of our daily activities, and we fail to adequately reflect on the costly grace You have provided us. Help us never to regard Your grace cheaply. Help us, in all that we do, to attempt to value Your grace properly. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Scripture Reading

Luke 9:57-62

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Message Notes

Mark 2:13-14

Jesus went out again beside the sea; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

Luke 9:57-62

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Study Questions

Read Luke 9:57-62

ICEBREAKER – Getting started:

1. What's something you once started but didn't finish? What made it difficult to complete?
2. Have you ever had to make a hard choice between two good things? What helped you decide?
3. When you hear the word "commitment," what emotions or thoughts come to mind?

Based on Luke 9:57-62, answer the following questions:

OBSERVATION – What does the text say?

1. As you read **Luke 9:57-62**, what comes to mind? What stands out? What is interesting to you and why?
2. In one sentence, how would you summarize this text?
3. What lesson or message do you think the author is trying to convey?

INTERPRETATION – What does the text mean?

1. Where is Jesus heading in Luke 9:57–62, and how might that context shape this conversation?
2. What does the first man promise Jesus in verse 57? How does Jesus respond?
3. What does Jesus mean when He says, “Foxes have holes... but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head”?
4. How does Jesus’ response challenge common expectations about following Him?
5. In verses 59–60, who initiates the call to follow? How is this different from the first encounter?
6. Why might the man’s request to “bury my father” have been significant culturally and religiously?
7. What could Jesus mean by saying, “Let the dead bury their own dead”?
8. In verses 61–62, what does the third man want to do before following Jesus? How does Jesus respond?
9. What is the meaning of the image of putting a hand to the plow and not looking back?
10. Across all three encounters, what common theme do you see about discipleship?

APPLICATION – How can you apply the text?

1. What comforts or securities might Jesus be asking you to loosen your grip on?
2. Are there “reasonable” excuses that sometimes delay your obedience to Christ?
3. What does wholehearted commitment to Jesus look like in your current season of life?
4. Is there anything in your past that keeps you “looking back” instead of moving forward with Christ?
5. What practical step can you take this week to follow Jesus more intentionally?