

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
**LUKE 9:57-62 / 9-1-19 / AM**

**I. FIRST, LETS CONSIDER JESUS' CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS.**

- A. Jesus call for volunteers is found in Luke 9:57-62.
- B. Let's notice three things about Jesus' call to these prospective volunteers.
  - 1. First, it's a universal call to volunteer.
    - a. This is what Paul says in Ephesians 4:11-12.
    - b. These men in our story were not identified by name, but they received the same call as the original twelve disciples received, "Come Follow Me".
    - c. The message to us is that Jesus calls every Christian to be a volunteer.
  - 2. Second, it's a volitional call.
    - a. This means that Jesus didn't command them to volunteer.
    - b. Although Jesus didn't coerce them to volunteer it's evident that he expected them to.
    - c. The message is that Jesus leaves the decision to volunteer up to us, but he certainly expects all of us to, not just the 20% who do.
  - 3. Third, it's a broad call.
    - a. Jesus didn't call them to a specific task.
    - b. He simply called them to follow him and, therefore, be ready to do anything he asked of them.
    - c. The message is that Christians should be just as available to wash dishes, cut grass or sweep floors as teaching or leading a group or being out front in any other capacity.
    - d. Listen to seven reasons people should be ready to volunteer in the church nursery written by Tony Kummer, founder and editor of a magazine called "Ministry-To-Children"

## II. NOW LETS SEE HOW THESE PEOPLE RESPONDED TO JESUS' CALL TO VOLUNTEER.

- A. The first man's response—**v.57 As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."**
1. His response sounds good, but perhaps Jesus sensed he needed to know the cost of following him because Jesus said—**v.58-- Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."**
  2. The message for us today is that perhaps we haven't done a good job of telling people what's required of them to be member of a church.
- B. The second man's response—**v.59-- He said to another man, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."**
1. Jesus response seems harsh if this man's father had just died—**v.60-- Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."**
  2. Another way to look at this is that the man's father had not yet died and he was asking to postpone his service until he did.
  3. The message for us is not to deceive ourselves into thinking someday we will volunteer to do something for the Lord.
  4. What did Jesus mean when he said **"Let the dead bury the dead"**? How can the dead bury the dead? One interpretation is that Jesus was saying "let the spiritually dead", those who aren't serving him, bury the dead.
- C. The third man's response—**v.61-- Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family."**
1. So what's wrong with telling your family you're leaving?
  2. Jesus' point is that this man's first priority was to his family not to God—**v.62-- Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."**
  3. If serving Jesus isn't our first priority then it probably won't be a priority at all.