

SCRIPTURES FOR 2/4/07 LIFEGROUP LESSON

Luke 9:57-62

As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

He said to another man, "Follow me."

But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good bye to my family."

Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

<p>NOTE TO LEADER: There is a lot of material here. Familiarize yourself with it so you know which stuff you are most comfortable with and what you will cut if you get short on time. Try to keep the lesson/discussion 20-30 minutes in length. Good luck and let me know if you have any questions. - Ed</p>



STEWARDSHIP AS LORDSHIP

Why Is Lordship Necessary? Part 2

NOTE TO LEADERS: All items in *italics* are for your information and not designed to be read aloud.

OPENING:

ICEBREAKER or GET YA THINKIN' QUESTION: _____

OPENING PRAYER NOTES: _____

INTRODUCTION:

This week, Jeff continued his discussion on the necessity of lordship & the consequences of not submitting to it.

Q: Jeff shared a time when Ginny left him "in charge" (*alone w/baby Benjamin*). Have you had a time when you were challenged or humbled by your responsibilities or obligations?

DIG DEEPER:

(*Have some one read Luke 9:59-60*) This is an interesting use of the Greek word *nekros* (*pr: neck-ross*), which can mean both physically dead, as in a corpse, or in a more symbolic sense metaphysically dead, as in spiritually separated from God. Luke uses *nekros* 13 times in his gospel, usually to refer to dead people who would later be raised, but twice it refers to the prodigal son who was "dead" but is now "alive."

Q: In light of this, how do you interpret Luke 9:60?

Q: What does it mean to us today?

APPLICATION:

(*Have some one read Luke 9:57-62*) This short passage includes three interchanges about Christian service between Jesus and potential followers. First, a man offers to follow and is warned following Jesus does not promise comfortable accommodations. Second, a man accepts Jesus' offer to join Him, but wishes to attend a funeral first, and another man wishes to let others know he is leaving. Jesus tells both men to let someone else worry about that; they have more important matters to attend to.

Q: Does this mean Christians should not bury their dead or express farewell wishes? If not, what does it mean?

John Gill's exposition of the Bible suggests that looking back implies looking "behind him; for the plowman ought to look before him, on his plow, and the ground he is plowing, or he is not fit to be a plowman; nor will he make proper furrows, or do his work well; and so he that enters upon the ministerial work, and looks back, and engages himself in the affairs of the world, sets his heart on them, and spends his time in them," he is not fit to proclaim the kingdom of God.

LORDSHIP SETTLES THE PERMISSION ISSUE

Q: What does Jesus' responses to these men tell us about His leadership and our followership (i.e., submission to His lordship)? (*Jesus knows your motives; following is more than words; we may have to sacrifice/be uncomfortable*)

CONCLUSION

Q: Can you accept the future regardless of the cost, leave the past regardless of the pull, and seize the moment regardless of inconvenience? Have you faced these prospects in your walk?

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

GROUP NEEDS: _____ SHUT-IN MINISTRY: _____

WHO'S LEADING...

THIS WEEK: WORSHIP: _____ PRAYER: _____

NEXT WEEK: WORSHIP: _____ PRAYER: _____