

## Christian Discipleship

**Luke 9: 57:62 (cf. Matthew 8:19-22)**

### INTRODUCTION:

Christ's words on discipleship offer a study in contrasts. On the one hand, they seem harsh and demanding; on the other, they are full of love and understanding. All these ingredients are evident in the responses Christ made to three men who declared their allegiance to Him. From the responses of these three we observe what He requires of Christian disciples. He demands:

### MESSAGE:

#### 1. Discipleship based on an intelligent decision

- a. The first man made his decision to follow Christ ignorantly—without knowledge of the difficulties, demands, and denials of self in discipleship (Luke 9:57)
- b. Christ lovingly revealed by personal illustration the hardships of discipleship. “The Son of man hath not where to lay his head” (Luke 9:58)
- c. Therefore, an intelligent decision for Christ will be based on an understanding that peace and persecution, happiness and hardship, love and loneliness are involved in discipleship.

#### 2. Discipleship motivated by a central affection.

- a. The second man put love for family before love for Christ. “Suffer me first to go and bury my father” (Luke 9:59).
- b. Christ bluntly declared that love for God and His kingdom must be first (Luke 9:60)
- c. Therefore, He must and will be our central affection—before family and friends, employment or pleasure.

#### 3. Discipleship perpetuated by a persevering spirit.

- a. The third man said he would follow, then turned back (Luke 6:61)
- b. Christ clearly indicated that one who turns back is not fit for God's kingdom (Luke 9:62)
- c. Therefore, we must not only begin well, but we must persevere to the end.

### CONCLUSION:

Each Christian should ask himself: Have I intelligently decided to serve Christ? Is He the center of my affections? Am I pressing “toward the mark”? Unless the answer in each case is positive, he cannot be called a disciple of Christ.

—Warren D. Bullock