

# Responding to the Lordship of Jesus

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Luke 9:57-62 ▪ Sunday, September 28, 2025 ▪ Brad Manley

**Understanding** \_\_\_\_\_

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## ***Luke 9:57-62***

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<sup>57</sup> As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." <sup>58</sup> 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." <sup>59</sup> To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." <sup>60</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." <sup>61</sup> Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." <sup>62</sup> Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

## ***Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions***

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**Open:** Share about a time when you had to make a difficult choice that required you to give up something good for something even better? What helped you make that decision?

**Read & Discuss:** Luke 9:57-62

1. These passages describe three interactions Jesus had with others. What do you think each person's words communicated about their intention in following Jesus? What are we meant to understand by Jesus' responses? How might you respond to Jesus saying these things to you?
2. The first aspiring follower enthusiastically promises, "I will follow you wherever you go" (v. 57). Jesus' response about having "nowhere to lay his head" seems sobering. How might our own enthusiasm for following Jesus be based on misunderstanding what discipleship truly entails? How might such a misunderstanding create problems for us as we seek to follow Jesus?
3. Jesus tells the man who wants to bury his father to "leave the dead to bury their own dead" (v. 60). What makes this a particularly challenging or shocking command? What do you think "the dead" means in this context? How does this challenge contemporary cultural norms?
4. The final man wants to say goodbye to his family before following Jesus, which seems reasonable to us (v. 61). How do you think Jesus' view of family (See Luke 8:19-21; 11:27-28; 14:26) may have conflicted with Jewish culture of the time? How does it compare with your view of family?
5. Jesus said, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God" (v. 62). What does this imagery of plowing tell us about the kind of commitment Jesus is calling for in His followers? What might cause a disciple to "look back," and how would this make them unfit for the kingdom of God?
6. What do these three interactions collectively reveal about the nature of the commitment Jesus asks of His followers? **Read Luke 14:25-33.** How does this text in Luke 14 reinforce and expand what Jesus is communicating to these potential disciples? How would you say this expectation fits with our understanding of discipleship today?
7. These passages examined alone can leave us with an incomplete view of the importance of honoring God through our family commitments. What are some verses that speak to how we can worship God through our commitments to our family? In what ways should our being disciples of Jesus interface with our family obligations?

**Apply:** Are there areas of your life—perhaps related to comfort, family obligations, or past attachments—that you feel Jesus may be challenging you to reprioritize?

**Pray:** Pray that God will give us the resolve to align our priorities more fully with the kingdom of God and the call of Jesus as reflected in this passage.