

Luke 9:57-62 And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. (58) And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head. (59) And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, (A) suffer me first to go and bury my father. (60) Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. (61) And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but (B) let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. (62) And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

Right after I became a Christian, God confronted me with Luke 9:57-62. At the beginning, I did not comprehend what my Lord was saying, but in a while, I became painfully aware of what He was saying to me. You see, I had been making statements like the one in verse 57.

Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.

You see, if you tell Jesus that you will follow Him, He will put you to the test. It is like He is saying, "Okay, then do what you say." Most of us have learned to talk the talk, but not walk the walk!!! It is real easy to say that you will do something for the cause of Christ, but it is something else to keep your word.

We can only be true when we learn to leave this world system behind and serve Jesus. Can you say — "We must die to our own desires and wants." Jesus put this another way:

Matthew 6:19-24 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: (20) But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: (21) For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (22) The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. (23) But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! (24) No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

(A) You see, one man wanted to go bury his Father. But you say, "what was wrong with that?" Well, nothing, except his father was not yet dead! He said that He wanted to follow Jesus, but now he just wanted to wait until his father had died — probably years! When we volunteer to serve Jesus, it is a "NOW" thing! — Not in the sweet by and by!

(B) The same thing holds true for the second man, he wanted to say good by to his those at his home. I think that he was wanting to say to his family, "Look at me, I am going to serve Jesus". It appears from Jesus' reaction, that this man wanted some fan-fare for having gone to serve the Lord. We cannot hope to secure the praise of men and serve God in humility.

Dying to yourself is a very real thing. Those who have learn to die to their own desires, will tell you that **it is not a one time thing**, and that **the pain is just as real as the real thing of dying**. It really hurts! The Apostle Paul put it this way:

1 Corinthians 15:31b I die daily.

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. 3 John 1:4 KJV