

The Greatest Challenge

(Lk.9:57-62)

'A few good men'

Two ways to obtain allegiance –

- Bribery. Soldiers, Mt.28:12-15.
- Challenge. Lk.9:57-62.
 - No gimmicks . . . Only danger and hardship

The challenges of Jesus

I. Count The Cost, 57-58

Scribe, Mt.8:19

- Jesus does not doubt his sincerity
- The man sees crowds...fame.
 - 51: on way to Jerusalem [13:31-33]
 - 9:22-23: sacrifice, service, suffering
 - ◆ Disciples bragged...then fled; Judas; Peter
 - ◆ Easy to get caught up in the glory...
 - 9:33, Peter ... tents?
 - Mt.20:20, James, John?

Scribe, Lk.9:57

- Wherever You go...
 - Overconfident; proud self-deception.

“So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name” – Acts 5:41.

- 2 Cor.11:24-28

Foxes and birds, Lk.9:58

“...though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich” – 2 Cor.8:9

- No room for Him at inn, Lk.2
- ...in Nazareth, Lk.4
- ...in Samaria, Lk.9:53
- ...on earth, Lk.23

2 Tim.3:12

I. Count The Cost, 57-58

**II. Conscientious
Commitment, 59-60**

Scribe: overconfident.

Second man: overly-cautious, 59

1. Jesus takes the initiative: 'Follow Me!'
 - Believe Him
 - Obey Him; yield to His will
 - Even die for Him (Lk.14:26)
2. Contrast: 'Let me first go bury my father...'
 - Sounds reasonable . . . but 'he knows more than the Lord'?? (Mt.16; 26)

If father had just died,
we wonder at Lord's response, 60

1. He did not forbid Mary and Martha . . .
2. He did not tell Zacchaeus to give away . . .
 - BUT: he knew heart of men [Lk.16:15]
 - Emotions can replace action.

Chrysostom

‘He might need, if he went to the funeral, to proceed, after the burial, to make inquiry about the will, and then about the distribution of the inheritance, and all the other things that followed thereupon; and thus waves after waves of things coming in upon him in succession might bear him very far away from the harbor of truth. For this cause, doubtless, the Savior draws him, and fastens him to Himself’

If Jesus refused this man's excuse, what will He do with ours?

Mt.6:33, first: above work, possessions...

Mt.15:1-9, provide for family

- But put Him first, Lk.14:26
- No one can follow Jesus for us

I. Count The Cost, 57-58

II. Conscientious Commitment,
59-60

III. Careful Concern, 61-62

What is wrong with saying goodbye?

- Elijah, 1 K.19:19-21
- Jesus can see what we cannot see.
Jn.2:25; Mt.10:37

The danger, Lk.9:62

- This man is either...
 - ¹ weaker than he supposes or ...
 - ² does not know his own heart.
- Hesiod: 'He who would make straight furrows must not look about him.'
 - ✓ Lk.17:32
 - ✓ 1 K.18:...21
 - ✓ Ph.3:13-14
 - ✓ Ja.1:6-8

Average people accomplish great things by sticking with it

- Phil.4:13
- 1 Sm.3:...10

Devote yourself entirely to duty;
count the cost

Do not let hardship, heartache,
or home turn you from duty

Plans: sow wild oats . . . then become a Christian

1. What of those who are led astray by your influence?
2. What of spiritual growth you miss?
3. What if you die in that condition – rebel?
4. May get so caught up in world that escape is impossible.

Luke 15

Acts 24:24f

Will we follow Jesus through poverty,
loss of family, steady service?