**THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS**

**Luke 9:57-62**

**Introduction- Kyle Idleman wrote a book entitled “Are You A Fan Or A Follower?” He talks about fans who root for Jesus and people who truly follow Him. Fans, themselves, do not make any sacrifices to help the team perform well and win. Let me ask is another way. It is easier to sit on the sidelines and offer opinions and criticisms without it costing us anything, than to get in the game. Playing in a real contest requires more than many are willing to invest or give. Jesus encountered people with the same struggles when He was here on earth.**

**Transition- Several came to Him and said, “Wherever You go, I will follow you.” The word follow has the connotation of “I will adapt my lifestyle to walking with you and being apprenticed by you every day.” The Hebrew concept was to become a “talmudim.” Jesus saw what was in their hearts and spoke to some underlying issues. Let’s look at what truly hindered and prevented these people from following Jesus.**

**I. The scribe/teacher said, “I will follow You wherever You go.” [9:57-58]**

**A. Jesus response: “The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”**

**1. Perhaps, this man wanted to follow Jesus because of the large crowds and miracles. Everything seemed exciting. He didn’t know the whole picture of commitment required.**

**2. Jesus was saying to him, you will not know the comforts you have had in the past.**

**B. Following Jesus requires surrender and sacrifice**

**1. Surrender control**

**2. Sacrifice comfort**

**II. Jesus said to a man, “Follow Me.” [9:59-60]**

**A. That man responded, “Permit me first to go and bury my father.”**

**1. It was a tradition for the first-born son to bury his father and receive the inheritance. I’ll get around to following you someday.**

**2. Perhaps in this instance, his father was not dead and would not pass for some time.**

**a. This man wanted convenience and provision without needing to trust God.**

**\*Illustration= Elijah calling and casting his mantle upon Elisha…**

**B. Jesus said to him, “Allow the [spiritually] dead to bury those who die [physically]. You go and proclaim the kingdom of God everywhere.”**

**III. Another said, “I will follow You Lord.” [9:61-62]**

**A. “But, first permit me to say good-bye to those at home.”**

**1. They might have thought Jesus to be extreme or not fit well into the Jewish culture.**

**2. They might have tried to talk their son out of “this crazy idea” of following Jesus**

**B. But Jesus said to him, no one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”**

**1. Jesus was confronting double-mindedness.**

**\*Illustration= learning to plow growing up… [Hebrews 12:2]**

**Conclusion- Following Jesus s a committed relationship. It requires we surrender the headship of our lives to Jesus. In Mark 3:14, the priority Jesus had with Hs disciples was that they be [much] with Him… Powerful and effective ministry flowed out of this relationship. We too must make some choices about how deeply we want to follow Jesus. On our way to following Him the way He desires, we will confront our need for comfort, control, convenience, self-provision, and double-mindedness. As we grow in our overcoming, Jesus will work in us and through us in wonderful ways!**

**\*Illustration= Under the seats behind the baskets at both ends at a Dallas Maverick’s game… Brick posters!**

**Let us fix our eyes on the goal: enjoying our relationship with and becoming like Jesus. Let’s do His ministry.**