

Luke 9:57

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way (ἐν τῇ ὁδῷ, en tē hodō)—Luke introduces three would-be disciples encountered on the way to Jerusalem, where Jesus goes to die. The 'way' (ὁδός) becomes a metaphor for discipleship itself, the path of following Christ to the cross. **A certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest** (ἀκολουθήσω σοι ὅπου ἐὰν ἀπέρχῃ, akolouthēsō soi hopou ean aperchē)—the man offers unconditional, unlimited commitment.

His enthusiasm appears admirable: 'anywhere you go, I'll go.' But Jesus perceives the shallowness beneath bold promises. The man hasn't counted the cost. He imagines following Jesus to glory, not Gethsemane; to coronation, not crucifixion. Jesus will test his resolve by describing discipleship's hardships (9:58), warning that the path leads to homelessness, rejection, and suffering. Enthusiasm without understanding makes poor disciples. The kingdom requires not just willingness to follow anywhere, but readiness to follow to Calvary.

Historical Context

Traveling teachers typically attracted disciples who provided for their master's needs in exchange for instruction. This cultural pattern expected comfortable arrangements—lodging, meals, patronage. Jesus's response (9:58) would shatter these expectations. Unlike other rabbis who enjoyed hospitality and support

networks, following Jesus meant embracing material insecurity and social rejection. The cost of discipleship exceeded normal rabbinic apprenticeship.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does the contrast between this man's enthusiastic promise and Jesus's sobering response teach about the danger of emotional commitment without careful consideration of the cost?
2. How does the setting 'on the way' to Jerusalem (where Jesus will die) frame all three discipleship encounters as tests of willingness to follow Christ to suffering, not just success?

Interlinear Text

Ἐγένετο	δὲ	πορευομένων	αὐτόν	ἐν	τῇ	ὁδῷ	εἶπέν
it came to pass	And	that as they went	him	in	G3588	the way	man said
G1096	G1161	G4198	G846	G1722		G3598	G2036

τις	πρὸς	αὐτόν	Ἀκολουθήσω	σοι	ὅπου	ἂν
a certain	unto	him	I will follow	thee	whithersoever	G302
G5100	G4314	G846	G190	G4671	G3699	

ἀπέρχῃ	Κύριε
thou goest	Lord
G565	G2962

Additional Cross-References

John 13:37 (References Lord): Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake.

Exodus 19:8 (References Lord): And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.

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