

Matthew 8:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And a certain scribe came, and said unto him, Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.

Analysis

The scribe's address 'Master' (Greek 'didaskalos'—teacher) and enthusiastic promise 'I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest' appears exemplary but lacks understanding of discipleship's cost. His self-initiated approach contrasts with Jesus' calling of the Twelve. The scribe's profession may be sincere but immature, not counting the cost. Jesus' response reveals that true discipleship requires abandoning security and comfort, not merely enthusiastic profession.

Historical Context

Scribes were religious professionals with social status and income. This scribe's willingness to abandon his position and follow an itinerant rabbi appeared radical. Yet Jesus' response suggests the scribe hadn't fully comprehended the poverty and rejection following Christ entails.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' response challenge superficial enthusiasm that hasn't counted the cost of discipleship?
2. What securities and comforts might Christ be calling you to abandon to follow Him fully?

Interlinear Text

καὶ προσελθὼν εἰς γραμματεὺς εἶπεν αὐτῷ
And **came** **a certain** **scribe** **and said** **unto him**
G2532 G4334 G1520 G1122 G2036 G846

Διδάσκαλε ἀκολουθήσω σοι ὅπου ἔλαν ἀπέρχῃ
Master **I will follow** **thee** **G3699** **whithersoever** **thou goest**
G1320 G190 G4671 G1437 G565

Additional Cross-References

Luke 14:33 (Parallel theme): So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

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