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

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

Διδάσκαλε	ἀκολουθήσω	σοι	ὅπου	ἐὰν	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.