

RESOLUTE DISCIPLESHIP

jkroberts_us@yahoo.com
www.pacolethillsbaptist.org

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Luke 9:49-62

1. Our chronological study of the life of Christ has covered about 2 ½ years of His earthly ministry.
2. Now the time was approaching for Him to begin the final phase of His ministry, and here we read in verse 51, “When the days were approaching for His ascension, He was determined to go to Jerusalem.” NASB Updated
 - a. And it came about, when the days were approaching for His ascension, that He resolutely set His face to go to Jerusalem. NASB
 - b. And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, KJVNOTE: I particularly like the word “resolutely.”
3. For Jesus the Cross was in full view before Him.
4. He had been trying to prepare the Disciples for the events that were soon to take place.
5. From the beginning Jesus’ sole purpose was to accomplish the work God sent Him to do.
 - a. John 4:34
Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish (finish) His work."
 - b. John 17:4-5
"I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished (finished) the work which You have given Me to do."
 - c. John 19:30
Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.
6. Resolute commitment to the plans and purposes of God should manifest itself in our lives as well.
7. By the grace of God we can come to the end of our lives and declare, “It is finished!”
NOTE: The Apostle Paul was able to write, “But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. 6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, **I have finished** the course, I have kept the faith; 8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.”
8. The question is have we resolutely set our faces towards God, and embraced His plan and purpose for our life?
9. If we have, this passage gives us some important things to think about.

I. Don’t make mountains out of molehills. 49-50

- A. As Christians we sometimes get bent out of shape and distracted by things that do not really matter.
- B. John, and the other disciples, were upset because someone who was not part of their group was casting out demons in Jesus’ name.
- C. They told Jesus, “Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name; and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow along with us.” 49

D. To paraphrase Jesus' response He said, "Leave him along. If he is not actively opposing you do not worry about him. You have enough real problems and enemies to deal with."

II. We need to understand that not everyone will identify with, and rejoice in, our determination to fully follow Jesus. 51-56

A. Jesus never imposed or presumed upon anyone so, in preparation for His journey to Jerusalem, He sent messengers ahead to prepare the various villages and towns for His arrival.

B. A certain Samaritan village was unwilling to receive Him because He was just passing through on His way to Jerusalem.

NOTE: This could have been due to the racial tensions between the Jews and the Samaritans, or it could have been because they wanted Him to focus on them.

C. James and John were so upset by this slight that they wanted to call down fire out of heaven to consume the village and its inhabitants.

D. Jesus told them that they were manifesting a wrong spirit because He had not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them.

E. Resolute discipleship will lead to misunderstanding, opposition, and even separation.

"Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. 33 "But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven. 34 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 "For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; 36 and A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD. 37 "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. 39 "He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it." Matthew 10:32-39

F. Rather than being angry with people we simply need to move on, just like Jesus did.

III. Don't play games with God. 57-62

A. These verses cause problems for some people because they seem overly harsh and demanding.

B. We need to understand that Jesus' responses were based on His perfect understanding of men's hearts and minds.

1. John 2:23-25

Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, observing His signs which He was doing. 24 **But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men, 25 and because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man.**

2. Matthew 9:2-8

And they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, "Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven." 3 And some of the scribes said to themselves, "This fellow blasphemes." 4 **And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, "Why are you thinking evil in your hearts?"** 5 "Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, and walk'?" 6 "But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" — then He said to the paralytic, "Get up, pick up your bed and go home." 7 And he got up and went home. 8 But when the crowds saw this, they were awestruck, and glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

3 Matthew 12:22-29

Then a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute was brought to Jesus, and He healed him, so that the mute man spoke and saw. 23 All the crowds were amazed, and were saying, "This man cannot be the Son of David, can he?" 24 But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons." 25 **And knowing their thoughts Jesus said to them,** "Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself will not stand. 26 "If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand? 27 "If I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out? For this reason they will be your judges. 28 "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. 29 "Or how can anyone enter the strong man's house and carry off his property, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.

C. Here we have Jesus three issues that are in opposition to resolute discipleship.

1. Preconceived notions and ideas.

- a. Someone said to Jesus, "I will follow you wherever You go."
- b. Jesus knew that he would not, so He blasted his preconceived ideas.

2. Conditional service.

- a. Jesus called another man to follow Him, but the man wanted to delay until his father had passed away.
- b. If this man's father had already died he would not have been with Jesus.
- c. He was not ready to obey Jesus so he made an excuse as to why not.
- d. People like him always find an excuse to justify their unwillingness to do what Jesus wants them to do.

3. Divided loyalties or misplaced devotion.

- a. Jesus will not share His rightful place in our lives with anyone.
- b. He made that clear in Luke 14:25-26.

Now large crowds were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, 26 "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple."

APPLICATION

1. Jesus knows who is, and who is not, a true follower of His.
2. Jesus also knows who will, and who will not, resolutely follow Him no matter what it means for them personally.
3. Most professing Christians today are what I call conditional Christians.
 - a. They may want to be used by God, but they want to be used, when, where, and how they want to be used.
 - b. They do not understand that following Jesus means letting Him determine when, where and how He will use us.
4. May God so work in our lives that He, and others, will know that we are resolute followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.