

It's Free, But not Easy

Luke 9: 57-62
Sunday, June 27, 2010

Homestead Act of 1862 Land was free, but it wasn't easy. 40% made it. The Gospel is sort of like that.

The Rabbi's Call -- The Rabbi called the best and the brightest from synagogue school. Not chosen? Enter the family trade.

This is why Jesus' call was so alluring...it offered another chance to those formerly rejected.

These who are pursuing Jesus in Luke 9, long for something to fulfill their lives.

I. "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests..."

- "I will follow you wherever you go..." v.57
- " _____ " is Rabbi talk
- " _____ " is prophet answer
- Jesus announced a "hands on Kingdom" – get dirty, get involved, standing by is not acceptable
- Real people with real problems, passionate, messy
- This is a "hands on" church too!
- Following Jesus is a beautiful mess

II. "Let the dead bury their own dead..."

- "...first let me go and bury my father..." v. 60
- Care of family / last rights/ very important in the Jewish tradition
- Even those kinds of things cannot supersede our decision to follow Jesus
- _____, if you must, even your future plans; who or what you've always thought you'd be or do

iii. No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back..."

- "...first let me say goodbye to my family..." v.61
- Forsake, if necessary, even your family
- There's a new family in Christ
- Following Jesus will cost you only one thing,
_____!
- Is the cost worth it?

Close: "Glorious Investment" Trade in your bologna sandwich!

Sermon Notes:

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever gotten anything for "free" that really turned out to cost you a ton? Discuss this together.
2. Can you think of something that is "free" but is not easy? For instance, we could check out a physics text book from the library for free, but it sure wouldn't be easy! What else can you describe in this was?
3. The Gospel message from Jesus is free (Ephesians 2: 8-9), but when we read Luke 9: 57-62 we discover that Jesus is reminding us that it is not necessarily easy. What do you think Jesus is saying in these verses?
4. Pastor Sam suggested that the Kingdom of God as Jesus introduced it is a place where Jesus' followers aren't afraid to get a little "messy". How do you interpret that? Is Jesus implying that following him is "messy" business?
5. Does Jesus really mean that we shouldn't have funerals in Luke 9: 60? What do you think this verse means?
6. Can Jesus truly mean that we must forsake our families if we are going to follow him? What does this verse mean?
7. It appears that following Jesus will cost us not just something, but everything? Describe why you think this exchange is or is not worth it. Do we get anything in return for our giving Jesus everything?
8. As you pray today, ask the Lord to point out areas in your life that may not be surrendered to Him. Are you holding things back from Jesus? Is this the kind of commitment he asks for?