

Apply It:

1. Look again at Jesus' words to the three would-be disciples in this passage. How is God speaking to you through these statements on discipleship? Is there anything holding you back from following Jesus more completely?
2. Gabe ended Sunday's message encouraging us to respond to Jesus' invitation by sharing in His single-minded focus on the kingdom of God. What does this response look like for you today?

Next Week: Luke 10:21-24, Blessed

Prayer Requests:



Abundant Life
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 8/25/2019

Talk About It:

- 1) What insight, principle, or observation from Sunday's message did you find the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.
- 2) Do you tend to focus on a single project or task at a time, or do you prefer to have multiple things to work on simultaneously?
- 3) Why was Jesus so focused on the cross during His earthly ministry? What does this reveal about His heart for us?
- 4) Respond to the following quote from James Bryan Smith in *The Good and Beautiful God*:

"Most of us live with the false narrative that strength is found in domination and control. But these are not the highest forms of power. God's power is made perfect in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9). The power of the seed emerges only when the seed dies. The power of God is demonstrated most clearly on the cross."

 - a) Do you agree with these words? Why or why not?

- b) In light of Paul's words in 2 Cor. 12:9, how have you seen God's strength perfected in weakness in your own life?

Sunday's Sermon:

The Cost, Luke 9:51-62

Following the climactic events surrounding the Transfiguration, Jesus sets His face to go to Jerusalem- the location of His impending death and resurrection. And just as He is focused on the cross, so also He invites His followers to share in this single-minded focus on discipleship.

1. **Read Hebrews 12:1-2.** What insight does this verse give us into the Jesus' single-minded focus on Jerusalem in Luke 9:51? What was the joy set before Him?
2. **Read Luke 9:57-62.** What is your initial reaction to Jesus' words in these three conversations? Do they inspire comfort, confusion, fear, or something else entirely? Why?

Study It:

On Sunday, Gabe explained the cost of discipleship by pointing out the new values we adopt as citizens of the kingdom of heaven. Jesus isn't asking us to add Him to a list of teachers we respect, but to reorient our entire life around following Him. Let's dig into this week's passage again.

3. Look again at v.57-58. What is Jesus trying to communicate to this would-be disciple? How have we seen this principle play out in His life already? (Hint: Compare to v.51-53).

4. Compare v.59-60 to Luke 14:26. Let's begin by acknowledging that Jesus loved His own mother deeply (Jn. 19:26-27). Keeping this in mind, along with the command to honor our parents, what principle do you think Jesus is trying to communicate to this would-be disciple?

5. Look again at v.61-62. What is Jesus trying to communicate to this would-be disciple? How have you seen this principle play out in your own life?

6. **Read 1 Kings 19:19-21.** As Gabe noted, Elijah is already on the minds of James & John (see Lk. 9:54-56). Now, note the similarities & differences between this passage in 1 Kings and Luke 9:61-62.

- a. Do you think Jesus was intentionally referring back to this well-known story? Why or why not?

- b. Why do you think Elisha was permitted to kiss his parents good-bye, but Jesus will not permit His would-be disciple to do the same?

7. Luke does not tell us what these would-be disciples do next. Why do you think this is? What do you see as some possible 'hang-ups' to following Jesus for these men or women?