

Part 3: Excuses Don't Follow Jesus

No Looking Back Once You're Called (Luke 9:57–62)

Source Scripture

Luke 9:57–62 (NKJV)

⁵⁷ Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, “Lord, I will follow You wherever You go.” ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” ⁵⁹ Then He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” ⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.” ⁶¹ And another also said, “Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.” ⁶² But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Family, Luke 9 is a masterclass in how Jesus forms disciples. Jesus is not only giving power—He's correcting the spirit behind the power.

In **Part 1**, Jesus corrected **control**. The disciples saw someone doing ministry “not with us,” and they tried to shut it down. Jesus taught them: *You don't own the move of God. You don't control the Kingdom. You discern it.*

In **Part 2**, Jesus corrected **harshness**. The Samaritans rejected Him, and James and John wanted to call fire. Jesus rebuked them: *You don't know what manner of spirit you are of.* Because rejection will try to make you cruel—and if you don't let Jesus heal you, you'll start calling harshness holy.

Now today in **Part 3**, Jesus corrects something that will quietly destroy your discipleship and delay your destiny: **excuses**.

Because excuses don't always sound like rebellion. Sometimes they sound like responsibility. Sometimes they sound like logic. Sometimes they sound like "good reasons."

But Luke 9 exposes this truth:

Excuses don't follow Jesus—because following Jesus requires surrender, urgency, and undivided allegiance.

And this morning, the Holy Spirit is going to confront the places where we keep saying, **"Yes, Lord... but first."**

I. The First Man: Enthusiasm Without Understanding

"Lord, I will follow You wherever You go." (v.57)

This man sounds ready. He sounds passionate. He sounds like revival.

But Jesus answers him with a warning:

"Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." (v.58)

This is Jesus saying: *Following Me is not a motivational moment. It's a life.*

Some people love the idea of Jesus—until Jesus costs them comfort.

Jesus is not promising convenience. He's promising purpose.

- Your schedule will change.
- Your friendships will change.
- Your appetite will change.
- Your priorities will change.

If you need a guaranteed nest, you're not ready for a cross.

It's easy to shout "wherever You go" in a service. But the test is on Monday.

II. The Second Man: A Call Delayed by “Let Me First”

Jesus starts this one.

“Follow Me.” (v.59)

But the man replies:

“Lord, let me first go and bury my father.”

Jesus responds:

“Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.” (v.60)

This isn't Jesus hating family. This is Jesus confronting a heart that keeps postponing obedience.

Because “bury my father” could mean: - my father is dead and I need to handle arrangements, or - my father is aging and I'll follow You after that season is over

Either way, the point is the same:

Delayed obedience is disobedience wearing a suit.

Jesus says: ***“You go and preach the kingdom of God.”***

Meaning: *There are people you're called to reach that won't be reached if you keep waiting for 'later.'*

The enemy doesn't have to make you say 'no'—he'll settle for 'not yet.'

An excuse is anything you keep putting in front of Jesus.

What do you keep putting in front of prayer? - What do you keep putting in front of repentance? - What do you keep putting in front of obedience?

III. The Third Man: Divided Allegiance Disguised as Courtesy

“Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.” (v.61)

That sounds polite. That sounds reasonable.

But Jesus answers with a plow:

“No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” (v.62)

This is the spirit of compromise:

- “Yes, Lord... but first let me keep this relationship.”
- “Yes, Lord... but first let me keep this habit.”
- “Yes, Lord... but first let me keep this image.”

Anything you have to keep looking back at will keep you from moving forward.

Jesus isn't rebuking gratitude. He's rebuking longing.

Because you can't plow straight while looking behind you.

You can't build a Kingdom future while clinging to your Egyptian, cultural or familial past.

“Fit” here is not about perfection—it's about being positioned.

God doesn't call the flawless—He calls the surrendered.

IV. The Pattern: Three Excuse-Roots Jesus Confronts

In these three encounters, Jesus exposes three roots that produce excuses:

1. **Comfort** (I'll follow... as long as it's convenient)
2. **Delay** (I'll follow... but not right now)
3. **Divided allegiance** (I'll follow... but I need to keep one foot back there)

And if we're honest, excuses are often fear in disguise.

- Fear of losing control
- Fear of losing comfort
- Fear of losing people
- Fear of failing

Excuses are what we call fear when we don't want to admit we're afraid.

V. Revival Warning: Excuses Can Sound Spiritual

This is where it gets dangerous.

Because excuses often come with religious language:

- “I’m waiting on confirmation.”
- “I’m just being wise.”
- “God knows my heart.”
- “I’m not ready to be used.”

But today Jesus is confronting the phrase that keeps people bound:

“Yes, Lord... but first.”

When Jesus says ‘Follow Me,’ He is not asking for your opinion—He is calling for your surrender.

1. **What is my ‘nest’?** (comfort I refuse to lose)
2. **What is my ‘let me first’?** (delay I keep defending)
3. **What is my ‘looking back’?** (attachment I keep revisiting)

Then pray this:

“Jesus, I surrender my comfort, my timeline, and my attachments.”

People, Jesus is preparing disciples for commission.

- If we minister from **control**, we will compete.
- If we minister from **harshness**, we will misrepresent His heart.
- And if we live in **excuses**, we will never fully follow.

But the good news is: Jesus doesn’t expose to shame—He exposes to free.

Today, the Lord is calling people out of delay, out of compromise, and out of divided allegiance.

- We will not follow Jesus halfway.
- We will not hide behind excuses.
- We will not love comfort more than calling.
- We will not delay obedience.
- We will not look back once we’ve been called.
- We will follow Jesus with surrender, urgency, and undivided allegiance.

Family, this is how Jesus forms disciples. He doesn't just give us power—He corrects our spirit.

And today, as I close I leave you with one answer to one command: When Jesus says, **“Follow Me,”** we say, **“Yes, Lord.”**