

LOOK CAREFULLY AT HIS FACE

Luke 9:51-62

I. THE ROAD IS ROUGH

- A. *And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him ... (9:52)*
- B. Let's Take a Trip!
 - 1. It's summer. It's vacation time. It's time for traveling.
 - 2. Where would you like to go?
- C. The First Stop.
 - 1. A village of the Samaritans.
 - 2. What is our biggest obstacle to faithful discipleship?

II. THE COST IS HIGH

- A. *And Jesus said... "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head." (9:58)*
- B. Two Roads Diverged.
 - 1. One road led back to Galilee, to home and a haven.
 - 2. The other road led to Jerusalem and suffering, betrayal and death.
- C. A Reluctant Traveler.
 - 1. Don't think that Jesus was finished with temptation back in Chapter Four in the wilderness.
 - 2. The disciples "were amazed."
- D. Which Road Will You Take?
 - 1. Will you teach the Junior High Sunday school class?
 - 2. Will you love your enemies?

III. THE TIME IS NOW

- A. *To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." (9:59)*
- B. The Most Frequent Command.
 - 1. The most characteristic command is not, "Love me," or "Worship me," or "Give me."
 - 2. Jesus' most frequent command is, "Let's take a trip. Follow me!"
- C. Carpe Diem.
 - 1. Don't wait. Seize the day.
 - 2. "Great! That's just one more thing that I'm asked to do."

IV. DON'T LOOK BACK

- A. *Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." (9:61)*
- B. Carpe Manana.
 - 1. "There ain't no future living in the past." (Sparky Anderson)
 - 2. "Three things every Christian must forget: sins which God has forgiven, failures whose lessons have been learned, and the false gods we served before we met Jesus." (Bill Bauknight)
- C. No Reserves, No Retreats, No Regrets.

Prayer Concerns: Members – Burney Biesel, Jeanette Boatright, Dr. Gordon Freeman, Ron Gathright, Ruth Dale Hurt, Faye McDowell, Mary Jo Moore ... **Friends** – Shirley Adkins, Pat Bryan, Bill Dean, Tina Gatlin, Nancy Godsey, Kathy Greer, Lucy Jones, Jeff Joyner, Ellen Kaplan, Lesli Kaplan, **Carter Woods Korn**, Dillon LaRue, **Ron McMillan**, **Alvada Patterson**, Eddie Mae Schaeffer, Peggy Shipman, Mike Thompson, Shirley Waldron ...

PASTORAL PRAYER

Eternal God, we bring before you now our best and our worst, all mixed up within us. Our best we bring in joy, and our worst in confession, as we marvel at what complex creatures you have made us, not even able always to understand ourselves.

We confess to a power within us that makes us willing to hurt others, sometimes subtly, other times openly and without apology. There are times when we lose control and make small issues so much bigger than they ought to be. There are patterns we get in when we cannot be pleased, when we appoint ourselves judges of those around us. O God, give us a sense of what is really important in life, because we like ourselves better when we are joyful and positive, and we want those moments to increase.

We thank you for those times when our faith sings, times when believing is easy and your presence felt. We thank you especially for a church which lifts us up, for friends who are patient with our shortcomings, for worship which is full of joy. Never let us take it for granted, but keep us aware that we are probably going to find in worship just what we have come looking for. Continue your presence with us, and help us respond to it.

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

LUKE 9:51-62

When the days drew near for him to be received up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him; but the people would not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to bid fire come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. And they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." 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." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." But he said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

SERMON SCHEDULE

In the Sanctuary:

July 8	<i>Sending Sojourners into a Strange Land</i>	Luke 10:1-20
July 15	<i>Wholly Walking Holy</i>	Colossians 1:1-14
July 22	<i>Praying Like Jesus</i>	Matthew 6:5-15
July 29	<i>The Power of Persistence</i>	Luke 11:1-13

On the Radio (1450 AM):

July 8	<i>Christ-minded Christianity</i>	James 3:13-18
July 15	<i>Hold the Fort!</i>	James 4:1-12
July 22	<i>Who's in Charge Here?</i>	James 4:13-17
July 29	<i>You Can't Take It with You</i>	James 5:1-6