

(56) Cost of Discipleship (Mt. 8:18-22; Lk. 9:57-62)

1. This episode features three follower candidates.
 - a. The uncalled volunteer.
 - b. The called procrastinator.
 - c. The called hindsight.
2. A scribe expressed his unconditional willingness to follow Christ (Mt. 8:19; Lk. 9:57).
Fut.act.ind. ἀκολουθέω *akoloutheō* ^{#190}_{90x}: *accompany, go along with, follow.*
 - a. As a 1st person singular, future active indicative, this statement is an “I Will” statement.
 - b. An “I Will” statement may be a self-exalting diabolical rebellion (Isa. 14:13-14).
 - c. An “I Will” statement may be a prideful disregard for the plan of God (Jas. 4:13-15).
 - d. An “I Will” statement may be followed by regrets (Lk. 14:28-30).
3. Temporal-life impoverishment is a stumbling block for certain followers (Lk. 9:58).
 - a. Loss of possessions and homelessness may be the perfect will of God the Father for the believer’s life (Jn. 6:38).
 - b. The apostles followed the example of Christ in this regard (1st Cor. 4:11).
4. Jesus turned to one who had not expressed such a willingness, and commanded him to follow unconditionally (Lk. 9:59-60).
 - a. This man was willing to follow “someday.”
 - b. The uncertainties of “someday” turn first things into only things.
 - c. Jesus Christ contrasted the dead with their “somedays” and the living with today’s urgency for evangelism (Lk. 9:60).
5. Slightly different from the “someday” follower is the “timeout” follower (Lk. 9:61-62).
 - a. This man allowed the second man to influence his thinking (1st Cor. 15:33). He’s already serving, but comes to think of his previous goodbyes as insufficient (Phil. 3:13).
 - b. This man has not yet begun plowing, but has put his hand to the plow (Lk. 9:62).
 - 1) An intention has been stated and a good work begun, but the follow through must take place (2nd Cor. 8:6).
 - 2) An accurate recognition of the price to pay must take place (Lk. 14:25-33).
 - c. The initial feel for the implements of divine labor may spark a longing for what was let go (Mt. 19:27; Mk. 10:28).

Follow Me by Ira Stanphill

Verse 1

I traveled down a lonely road,
And no one seemed to care,
The burden on my weary back
Had bowed me to despair;
I oft complained to Jesus
How folks were treating me.
And then I heard Him
say so tenderly:

"My feet were also weary
Upon the Calv'ry road,
The cross became so heavy,
I fell beneath the load,
Be faithful, weary pilgrim,
The morning I can see
Just lift your cross
and follow close to Me."

Verse 2

"I work so hard for Jesus,"
I often boast and say
"I've sacrificed a lot of things
to walk the narrow way;
I gave up fame and fortune
I'm worth a lot to Thee!"
And then I hear Him gently say to me:

"I left the throne of glory
And counted it but loss,
My hands were nailed in anger
Upon a cruel cross;
But now we'll make the journey
With your hand safe in Mine,
So lift your cross
and follow close to me."

Verse 3

O Jesus, if I die upon
A foreign field some day,
'Twould be no more than love demands
No less could I repay;
"No greater love hath mortal man
Than for a friend to die"
These are the words He gently spoke to
me;

"If just a cup of water
I place within your hand,
Then just a cup of water
is all that I demand."
But if by death to living
They can Thy glory see,
I'll take my cross and follow close to
Thee.