

“The Son of Man has Nowhere to Lay His Head”
“Let the Dead Bury Their Own Dead”
“No One Who Looks Back...Is Fit for the Kingdom of God”

⁵⁷ As they were going on the road, someone said to Him, “I will follow You wherever You go.” ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, “The foxes have holes and the birds of the sky *have* nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” ⁵⁹ And He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.” ⁶⁰ But He said to him, “Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God.” ⁶¹ Another also said, “I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say goodbye to those at my home.” ⁶² But Jesus said to him, “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

(Luke 9:57-62)

The Cost of Discipleship

- The Irony of Jesus’ Evangelistic Call Compared to Much of Modern Christianity’s Approach

We are unapologetically attractional. In our search for common ground with unchurched people, we’ve discovered that, like us, they are consumers. So, we leverage their consumer instincts... When you read the Gospels, Jesus attracted large crowds everywhere he went. He was constantly playing to the consumer instincts of the crowds. Let’s face it: it wasn’t the content of his messages that appealed to the masses. Most of the time they didn’t even understand what he was talking about...People flocked to Jesus because he *fed* them, *healed* them, *comforted* them, and *promised* them things.

Andy Stanley,
Deep and Wide

“Discipleship is not an offer that man makes to Christ... When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die... Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer,
The Cost of Discipleship

Jesus' Preeminent Claim on the Disciple's Life

"The Son of Man has Nowhere to Lay His Head"

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1. True Disciples Are Pilgrims, Foreigners, Strangers

Hebrews 11:8-10, 13-16

By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he left, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he lived as a stranger in the land of promise, as *in* a foreign *land*, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; ¹⁰ for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God... All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen and welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴ For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. ¹⁵ And indeed if they had been thinking of that *country* which they left, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better *country*, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.

1 Peter 2:11

Beloved, I urge *you* as foreigners and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul.

1 John 2:15-17

Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷ The world is passing away and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God continues *to live* forever.

"Let the Dead Bury Their Own Dead"

He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father." But He said to him, "Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God."

- **Who are "the dead" to bury their own dead?**

John McNeill, a well-known Scottish preacher of a past generation, used to tell how he found this saying directly relevant to him. When his father died in Scotland, towards the end of the nineteenth century, he was in the English Midlands, and was advertised to address an evangelistic meeting in a certain city on the very day of his father's funeral. People would have understood had he sent a message to say that he was compelled to cancel his engagement. 'But I dared not send it,' he said, 'for this same Jesus stood by me, and seemed to say, "Now, look, I have you. You go and preach the gospel to those people. Whether would you rather bury the dead or raise the dead?"' And I went to preach.'

F. F. Bruce, *Hard Sayings of Jesus*

2. True Disciples Concern Themselves Almost Entirely with Spiritual Life and Death

“No One Who Looks Back...Is Fit for the Kingdom of God”

Another also said, “I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say goodbye to those at my home.” But Jesus said to him, “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

1 Kings 19:19-21

Elijah departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat while he was plowing, with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he with the twelfth. And Elijah came over to him and threw his cloak on him.²⁰ Then he left the oxen behind and ran after Elijah, and said, “Please let me kiss my father and my mother, then I will follow you.” And he said to him, “Go back, for what have I done to you?”²¹ So he returned from following him, and took the pair of oxen and sacrificed them, and cooked their meat with the implements of the oxen and gave *it* to the people and they ate. Then he got up and followed Elijah and served him.

3. True Disciples Recognize that the Business of the Kingdom of God Takes Precedence Over All Other Agendas and Relationships