

### ***No More Excuses***

*"Yet 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'" (Luke 9:61-62).*

"I will follow you, Lord, but..." This was the continual phrase on the tip of each man's tongue that Jesus called to follow him. At the end of the ninth chapter of Luke, we are told that as Jesus walked along the road, he had three different men desire discipleship. Each individual had heard about Jesus and was somewhat itching to follow after Him... Yet in each instance, Jesus reveals the necessity of making His call on their life of the utmost importance.

One man despised the idea of living like a nomad with the Son of Man and having "nowhere to lay his head" (58). The next man still needed to bury his father, yet Jesus said it was time to come and that His kingdom work was urgent. While the last man said that he needed to "first say farewell to those" at his home (61). Each of these excuses was a pretty good one if you ask me... In fact, I would go as far as saying that some don't even sound like excuses, but rather minor delays... But you see, that's the whole point that Jesus was trying to make. For when Jesus calls a man or woman to follow after Him, He wants us to drop everything and follow in faith! For Jesus' call of discipleship is to take precedence over everything else. Much like John and James when they "immediately" left the nets, the boat, and daddy's fishing business behind in order to follow Jesus (Matthew 4:22).

But how many of us are just like the three men that Jesus encountered? How many of us are full of excuses when it comes to following Jesus in faith? For example, if you were to fill in the blank, what would be your excuse? "I will follow you, Lord, but..." I will follow you, Lord, but don't ask me to read my Bible throughout the week. I will follow you, Lord, but only on days when it is convenient. I will follow you, Lord, but only at a distance because I don't want to lose my secular friends. I will follow you, Lord, but don't ask me to give up drinking. I will follow you, Lord, but don't ask me to come to church every Sunday. I will follow you, Lord, but don't ask me to deal with my selfish desires. I will follow you, Lord, but don't ask me to make you the number one priority in my life. I will follow you, Lord, but only on my terms...

You see, that's where we have it backwards... We don't follow Jesus on our terms... No, it's on His! He is the El Capitan! He's the Boss. He's the Master. He's the Lord of lords and King of kings... Praise be to God in His Good News we find out that He is full of grace and truth (John 1:14). For we most certainly need His mercy on this walk of faith... But I want to challenge you today, as well as my own heart... Let's be done with the excuses... Let's throw away the "but" and simply live out in faith and say with our souls: "I will follow you, Lord..."

Respect the Blood,  
Dalton Mathis