

The 3rd Sunday after Pentecost
“Jesus teaches us how to follow Him”

Luke 9:57-59

June 29, 2025

Rev. Ed Weber

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, our text for this 3rd Sunday after Pentecost is from Luke 9:57-59.

“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.””

So far the text:

Journeyed on the road...there was a direction and purpose for Jesus’ journey. It was about 6 months before He was to die in Jerusalem. And that was where He was headed. He set His face resolutely to that end as we hear a couple of times in the opening verses of our text.

“51 Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, 52 and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. 53 But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem.”

Jesus would not be detoured from the very purpose of His coming into this world...to give His life as a ransom for the sins of the whole world. What a comfort that is for you and me to see Jesus’ determination to accomplish our salvation.

Who would also trust and follow Him? Who would share His compassionate mindset and also keep as the highest priority of one’s life, God’s mission of salvation for all people?

Jesus simply says: “Follow Me”. And He promises that in following Him, He as the Good Shepherd will care for you, redeem you with His shed blood, and bring you to eternal life.

As Hebrews 13 assures us:

“For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” 6 So we may boldly say:

“The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”

Jesus is THE Commander in Chief. There can be no doubting, but only 100% allegiance. He is on His journey to war against the devil, and the evil of this world. He goes to save the world ...not destroy it.

Jesus’ plans are flawless. They were made in the counsel of the Trinity before the foundation of the world.

As we heard in our epistle reading last Sunday from Galatians 4:

“4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”

And now, in this moment, they are being executed with precision and love. Who will follow this Leader to share in His victory? Our earthly leaders are not perfect. There is always debate as to the best course of action to keep stability and peace in this world. The best leaders humble themselves before God and plead for His guidance. And we pray for them too.

Jesus sent His recon team ahead of Him into Samaria to prepare for His arrival. And they were not welcomed. Why? Because Jesus was going to Jerusalem and the Samaritans had a great loathing for the Jews and delighted in thwarting any of their plans that involved going to Jerusalem and the temple which they were not permitted to help build when the Jews returned from the Babylonian captivity.

The Samaritans had intermarried, taken pagan wives, and were not allowed by Zerubbabel to help. (Ezra 4) We see how resentment and anger is carried from generation to generation.

The recon team’s response? Let’s call fire down on them as Elijah did. Jesus needed to correct the attitude of His followers. He said:

“You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. 56 For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives but to save them.” And they went to another village.”

The spirit of a follower of Jesus is not that of revenge. Vengeance is God’s alone to do. As followers of Jesus, we speak God’s truth of Law and Gospel, reprimanding those who do evil to lead them to repentance, but with the goal of saving them from eternal destruction in hell. Our goal should be Jesus’ goal – to save and not destroy.

Why did Elijah called down fire on the captains of fifty men of Ahaziah, king of Israel? Elijah did so to show who was the true God, because Ahaziah was looking for answers from false gods.

As Jesus continued to journey, another wanted to join Him and follow Him. **“Lord, I will follow You wherever You go.”**

So Peter also said later to Jesus, **“37 Peter said to Him, “Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my life for Your sake.”**

38 Jesus answered him, “Will you lay down your life for My sake? Most assuredly, I say to you, the rooster shall not crow till you have denied Me three times.” (John 13)

To follow Jesus involves hardships and persecutions. **“Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”**

In order to follow Jesus, He provides for us strength in His Word and Sacraments for the devil roams as a lion seeking to devour us.

But we are reminded of Jesus’ words in the beatitudes in Matthew 5.
**“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

11 Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

And as Paul says in Galatians 6:

“14 But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”

Our plan and purpose in life as we follow Jesus is but to boast in the cross of Lord Jesus Christ.

“15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. 16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.”

Our one goal in life is to always put Christ first...ahead of family, and with two hands on the plow, not looking back or being distracted.

When Jesus told another person to follow Him, this was his response.

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.”

Once a person is dead, you can't speak God's Word to them. The priority is always to preach the Kingdom of God to those who can still hear it, while there is time before Jesus' final coming. That's the follower of Jesus' mindset...urgency to share the Good News of salvation for the lost.

Jesus wasn't detoured from His mission. But faithfully arrived in Jerusalem and gave His life on the cross for all the world. Thanks be to God! His mission continues through you and me...telling the world of God's great love for them. This is our highest calling and purpose. Follow Him with Jesus' mindset for saving the lost with His precious Gospel. God will always be with you, He promises until the end of the ages. Now go and make disciples baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Amen. (Philippians 4:7)