

9:57–62

2 weeks since our International bible conference - what has changed in your life since then / what did God challenge you to do or stop doing?

How we respond to the call of Jesus Christ is critical - problem with many men is we can say yes to Jesus call but never followthrough - Interesting about this scripture - it was not a parable / these were actual records of mens response to Jesus invitation

Luke 9:57–62 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.” 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.” 61 And another also said, “Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.” 62 But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

I. THE GREAT INVITATION

A. Salvation is an invitation to a purpose

Luke 9:57 Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, “**Lord, I will follow You wherever You go.**”

1. When you get saved - that impacts more than just you / life becomes larger than yourself

Acts 9:6–6 So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” Then the Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

a) An encounter with Jesus/ salvation - is a surrender of our will and plans

B. Men here that have heard the call/ felt God speak to them to go and preach the Gospel

1. Essence of this serious men class is made up of two different types of men

a) Men that feel called to preach / men who are not sure and want to find out what God wants - thats ok

2. Equipping follows the calling

a) Old saying: God does not call the equipped - He equips the called

b) Things as a disciple you don't know / areas where you still need work - Jesus knows this and will help you

3. Starting point of all calling is a willingness to say yes

a) More important then the call is our response in saying yes

II. SAYING NO

A. Reality of discipleship: There are men that are called to preach the gospel but **say no**

1. We say no by **delay**: most common and most deceptive

Luke 9: 59 “**Lord, let me first go and bury my father.**”

Luke 9:61 And another also said, “Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.”

a) What delay looks like - We say yes to Jesus call but never followthrough with action

b) This takes away the sting of saying no - but honestly - a yes without action is the same as a no

Luke 9:60 Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.”

2. We say no by distractions of life

a) there are other things that are more important then what you require from my life

(1) **there will always be an alternative** - this is not a sin issue - no I would rather go and do drugs than follow Jesus - Jim Collins said “Good is the enemy of the great”

(2) I've said this before: If the enemy cannot derail your destiny with one great act of sin - he will settle for you to simply not make Jesus a priority - in either case it has the **same effect**

b) **Misplaced priorities:** What are your priorities in life - what has the highest value, occupies your time, takes your affections

3. We say no by carnality and the flesh

a) Saying no by delay opens the door to saying no to other areas of life.

(1) If a man will say no to the call of God - it makes compromise and sin easy

B. Consequences of saying no

1. Saying no **hurts other people**: People who need the Gospel are never reached

a) Think about this- there are people on their way to hell right now in a certain city or nation waiting for you to obey God so they can hear the Gospel - “*When I preached for Kris Whendt / met people who had never heard the name of Jesus - never heard the Gospel*”

- b) Saying no will damage your family - IF you have felt called to preach chances are your wife and kids will know about it - think about what you are communicating to your family - you can tell God no with certain things
 - (1) *P. Campbell - your compromises today will become your children's convictions tomorrow*
- 2. Saying no damages **your relationship with God**
 - a) If the foundation of your relationship with God is not obedience when He speaks - then at some point He will stop asking
 - b) You will never grow in ministry unless you are willing to obey -
- 3. Saying no will bring **discontentment in life**
 - a) No matter how successful you are in business, no matter how much money you make, no matter how many toys you have - when Jesus has called you - nothing else in life will satisfy
- 4. At the end of the day your will have to answer to God for why you said no
 - a) Behind every "no" an exchange has been made - I would rather do (_____) then say yes to calling
 - b) Being called by Jesus is the greatest honor and privilege you will ever have in life / don't miss the opportunity.

III. SAYING YES

Luke 10:1-2 After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. 2 Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

- A. Powerful truth here - men who said no - but then the next event - there were 70 men who said yes
 - 1. Here is the hope - you can say yes this morning
 - a) Maybe you've delayed/ allowed carnality into your life / become distracted - those are all fixable
 - 2. Saying yes begins with a change in our own hearts
 - a) God when you speak to me I want to say yes / God what you have called me too- I will say yes
 - 3. You wont be disappointed by saying yes
 - a) As men - we want our lives to count, make an impact - what greater impact then preaching the gospel
- B. What does your "yes" Look like?
 - 1. Yes involves **accountability** - If you feel called to preach tell your pastor
 - a) Pastor I want to go on record that I feel called to preach - I want you to disciple me / speak into areas of my life
 - 2. Yes requires **growing** with other men - help build another mans ministry
 - a) Interesting to me, men can approach calling and ministry as being this mysterious thing / no idea how men rise b) discipleship ladder - certain men are favored over others
 - b) Not being honest - the men that rise and are sent out are the men who don't delay- men who say yes
 - 3. Yes involves **the basics**
 - a) Wake up early/ arrange your schedule to be at morning prayer
 - b) Begin reading your bible everyday / ask God for spiritual hunger - love what HE loves
 - c) Cultivate a desire to be more like your pastor in character and humility
 - d) Be involved with evangelism / planning your own outreach's - currently from now until July this year there are three planned outreaches - 2 Saturday outreaches 1 Friday
 - e) working with new converts / getting people saved and added to the church

C. Destiny is within reach for you

- 1. Being sent out - this is a common phrase in our church culture - means a couple is launched into ministry
 - a) as a disciple even though you still live in Prescott - **you should be living and ordering your life as if you were sent out / who is in church today because of you - in the past 5-10 years / show me your fruit**
- 2. Keep saying yes - small obedience over time adds to larger ministry opportunities
 - a) these 70 men were ready to be sent out / they had ordered their lives in such a way that enabled them to go quickly
- 3. Take the initiative
 - a) Focus on what you can do today - never mind what you're not doing, never mind the titles you don't have