

# The Cost of Following Jesus

Luke 9:57-62

By Rev. Jerry Coleman

It's one thing to walk along the road with Jesus. It's another to deny myself, take up my cross, and follow him (Luke 9:23). The greatest spiritual warfare is the battle over self.

We see Jesus interact with three men who say they want to follow him but have spiritual battles going on. Do the same spiritual battles war within you?

1. **"I will follow you wherever you go."** verse 57
  - a. We first have the *spiritual battle of self-centeredness*.
  - b. Crowds want to "follow" those who are popular.
  - c. Jesus had no place to lay his head. Do we desire "paradise" here on earth? Earthly castles for my family and me? Would you really follow Jesus when there may be no place to lay your head?
  - d. I think Satan loved this debate among the disciples of who would be the greatest in verse 46.
  - e. Christ centered, not self-centered.
  - f. Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" vs. 23.
  - g. Christ centeredness is a characteristic of the true follower of Jesus and the Body of Christ – it "runs in the family" (a family characteristic)!
  
2. **"Let me first go and bury my father."** verse 59
  - a. Next we see the *spiritual battle of the cross*.
  - b. This diversion might take the person away from following Jesus for years. The father was likely old but not yet passed away.
  - c. Satan does NOT want you to take up your cross, but he wants you and me to take up your earthly self-interests.
  - d. I am the first born male in my family. I am responsible for my elderly, earthly father. Or am I responsible to my Heavenly Father?
  - e. The Transfiguration showed the relationship between Jesus and his Heavenly Father. "This is my Son, whom I have chosen" vs. 35.
  - f. Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" vs. 23.
  - g. Carrying the cross runs in our family! Our heavenly family! Take it up!
  
3. **"Let me first go back and say good-by to my family."** verse 61
  - a. Finally there is the *spiritual battle of delayed obedience*.
  - b. Farmers know that in order to plow straight rows, one must focus on a fixed tree or post at the other end of the field.
  - c. We must focus on Jesus; not looking back. We leave the results in his hands.

- d. “Delayed obedience is disobedience.” This I learned as a father of three children.
- e. “I will follow you, Jesus, when it’s convenient for me...when it’s good for me.” Satan loves this. The Father of lies brings distraction and skews priorities.
- f. Jesus said, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me” vs. 23.
- g. Immediate obedience runs in the family! Here and now!

### Conclusion

“Follow Me” has Christ, not me, at the center.

Luke 10:1f – Jesus then sends out the 72. These 72 were those following Jesus, not simply walking along the road with him. They were ready to face all the spiritual warfare. They returned with joy and good reports! We see Jesus’ response “full of joy through the Holy Spirit” in verse 21!

## 跟从耶稣的代价

路 9:57-62

Rev. Jerry Coleman

一路上与耶稣一起走是一回事，愿背起自己的十字架跟从主是另一回事（路 9:23）。最大的属灵争战是胜过自我的争战。

我们看到主耶稣与三个人交通，这三个人都说要跟从主，但他们都正面对属灵争战。同样的属灵争战是否也在您的生命中？

1. “你无论往那里去,我要跟从你”(57 节)
  - a. 我们首先会面对自我中心的属灵争战。
  - b. 民众总是要“跟从”那些有名的人。
  - c. 耶稣却连枕头的地方都没有。我们渴望在地上的“乐园”吗？给我家和我的地上城堡？连枕头的地方都没有的时候，你是否真的还会跟从耶稣？
  - d. 我想撒但喜欢这样的辩论发生在这一群争论谁为大的门徒们中（参 46 节）。
  - e. 以基督为中心，不要自我中心。
2. “容我先回去埋葬我的父亲”（59 节）
  - a. 接下来，我们看到关乎十字架的属灵争战。
  - b. 这改道或转移可能使这一个人多年无法跟从耶稣。他的父亲可能是老了，但还未去世。

- c. 撒但不要你背起你的十字架，牠要你和我背起我们地上的自身利益。
  - d. 我是我家庭里的长子。我要负起对我地上那年老父亲的责任，还是对我天上父亲的责任？
  - e. 登山变像的事显示了耶稣和祂天父的关系。“这是我的爱子，我所喜悦的。”（35节）
  - f. 耶稣说：“若有人要跟从我，就当舍己，天天背起他的十字架来跟从我。”（23节）
  - g. 背起十字架是我们属天家庭里的事！拿起这十字架吧！
3. “容我先去辞别我家里的人”（61节）
- a. 最后这里显示**延迟顺服的属灵争战**。
  - b. 农夫知道犁耕时为了能犁得直，他一定要注目于一棵树，或田的另一端的一个焦点或标竿。
  - c. 我们要注目耶稣，不要向后看。我们把结果交给祂手中。
  - d. “延迟顺服就是不顺服。”身为三个孩子之父亲的我，从经验中学到这功课。
  - e. “我将跟从我，耶稣，当我觉得方便的时候...对我有好处的时候。”撒但喜欢这样的态度。说谎之父要我们分心及扭转我们的优先秩序。
  - f. 耶稣说：“若有人要跟从我，就当舍己，天天背起他的十字架来跟从我。”（23节）
  - g. 立刻顺服是我们属天家庭里的事！就在这里，就是现在！

### 结论：

“跟从我”是以基督为中心，而不是我自己。

路 10:1f 记载耶稣差遣七十人出去。这七十人不只是一路跟着耶稣一起走，他们是跟从耶稣的。他们预备面对所有的属灵争战。他们欢喜的回来，并有美好的报告！我们看见耶稣的反应是“被圣灵感动就欢乐”（21节）！