

“He said to another person, “Come, follow me.” The man agreed, but he said, “Lord, first let me return home and bury my father.”” Luke 9:59 NLT

[lectio] // LUKE 9:57-62

listen to the text by reading out loud slowly and repeat up to 3x if desired

I am positive that there are hundreds of social and cultural nuances and cues that I am missing from just reading this passage through western eyes. We don't have Rabbi's around, not in the NT times kinda way. I don't know any Rabbis. Luke records this discussion when it was started by one of Jesus followers. In other words, they started it. My guess is that Rabbis had followers who would come under their teaching and become a “disciple” of their ways, their thoughts and approach to the law (Old Covenant Bible). So this guy was probably just declaring that he desired to follow Jesus' teaching. Jesus raised the bar by saying, well I don't even have a bed, let alone a home. I'm sure this caused some deeper thought to a commitment to Jesus' ways. And the others were talking about how to prioritize this new declaration. Maybe it was the socially polite way of backing out. It's interesting with the play on words of “first.” A couple of them said, “first let me return” and then gave the reason. I'm sure there are dozens of reasons to not give up your bed or your home! Jesus was cutting right to the seriousness of this idea of “following” him. It wasn't just a teaching, or meeting a few times or getting the cool Rabbi robe that your master wears. Jesus was teaching a Kingdom principal that was 100% serious. It was all or nothing. Now in other places, Jesus talks about giving it back to us to manage as his resources, but it still is a commitment that it all belongs to him - life, bed, home, relationships, dreams, and future. It's the only way it will work. It's not “first let me,” it's more like, “first I'll give you...” everything, then we'll talk about how to leverage it for the Kingdom.

[oratio]

Dad,
I had nothing. I was nobody. You saved my life, redeemed the garbage and are transforming me everyday. I remember telling you, “I don't have anything to give you in exchange for you being my Dad.” And yet you offered and I received. I didn't have a “first let me” to even consider! I have nothing of worth to fix, bargain with or prioritize. I was so desperate that it was simple. And yet, here I am today still trying to manage everything you've given me - a reputation, a family, children, grandchildren, money, status, a home, talents and abilities, friendships and opportunities, dreams and a future. Would I give it all up and follow you now? You are still asking me to! I must manage all that it yours better. Not just money, but all the things that make up life on this planet. I know you want me to enjoy this life and provide for my family, but I want to do better at spending all of my life-capital and my story on things that matter for eternity.

[contemplatio]

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root