

Hasty, Hesitant and Homesick

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What Are You Willing to Leave Behind?

The Hasty Disciple

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.” **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.”

Often someone can get so excited about what God is up to that they don't think about the extent of the commitment. *They simply don't count the cost.* Jesus warned this disciple to really consider what it meant to be His disciple.

It appears to me that this disciple was more interested in the attention Jesus was receiving and was wanting to attach himself to it. He didn't seem as interested in what it meant to totally surrender to Jesus and take up His mission.

The Hesitant Disciple

Luke 9:59 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.”

Sometimes it's not about jumping in too fast, but the very opposite; *dragging your feet*. It can be very tempting to create excuses for not accepting Jesus' call to follow Him. Believe me, there's always something that will appear more important. *It will even be honorable and logical.* However, when Jesus calls, there is no “but.”

This disciple told Jesus that he wanted to follow Jesus but he needed to wait for his father to pass away. It sounds like a respectable request. Maybe he was taking care of him. Jesus saw it differently. With insight, Jesus addressed this disciple's excuse and then told him what was ultimately more important. *When Jesus calls, don't hesitate.*

The Homesick Disciple

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.” **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 think we all are guilty at one time or another of dragging our past into our future. We want to hold onto people and things that are not healthy for us. Unfortunately, this type of baggage can really screw up what Jesus is desiring to do in us and through us.

This disciple wanted some kind of closure. Jesus knew that if he went to his family and friends, they might try to persuade him from embracing his new life in Christ. Imagine trying to drive your car while looking in the rearview mirror the entire time. You will inevitably veer off course and crash. Jesus knew the same thing would happen for this disciple if he continued to look backwards.

So, there you have it: Three disciples who sincerely wanted to follow Jesus, yet unconsciously, had ulterior motives.

Hasty, Hesitant and Homesick... “Excuses”. Reasons why people can’t follow Jesus...

Now for the real text of the message...

Luke 5:1 So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, **2** and saw two boats standing by the lake; **but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets.** **3** Then He got into one of the boats, **which was Simon’s, and asked him** to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.

4 When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, “**Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.**”

5 But Simon answered and said to Him, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.” **6** And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. **7** So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, **so that they began to sink.** **8** When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” **9** For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; **10** and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “**Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.**” **11** So when they had brought their boats to land, **they forsook all and followed Him.**

They had been sitting in the boat with Jesus... rubbing shoulders with His Majesty. He was borrowing their boat. He was using their resources... He owed them. He was in their debt...?

*Then He told them what to do... Go out into the deeper waters... **Great things happen in deeper waters...***

They received the greatest blessing they had ever received... 'good measure, pressed down and running over' (He never borrows your boat without paying the rent!) So many fish, they had to signal others to help with the catch! The blessing was so big, it was literally sinking their boat!! Talk about 'running over'!! They were in the middle of the perfect will of God! Hearing His voice and obeying His commands!!

It was such a great blessing Simon knew he didn't deserve it... It was humbling. Ever got a blessing that was so great it was humbling?

Even the people with them were astonished. Even James and John. They must have been a little skeptical, because Luke names them- as if to say "even James and John..."

Then Jesus says, "from now on you will catch men..." Their calling. God calling them to their real purpose in life. Everyone really wants to follow Jesus! To be called...

***When they got the boat to shore, they forsook all and followed Him...** I don't think they even left a forwarding address for their partners to send their share of the profits. They walked away from the biggest blessing they had ever received... in order to follow Jesus. Without hesitation. Instantly obedient. Knowing they were in the will of God one moment and enjoying the catch of a lifetime... they left it behind. What would have been the greatest profits they had ever seen... they were due that catch. They had loaned their boat...*

What are you willing to leave behind- to really get what God has for you? Your job? Your family? Your traditions?

This entire message was a setup... I'm not talking about people who need to leave homes, jobs, finances, blessings, colleges, schools, families... all admirable sacrifices... It's really much simpler than that... I'm talking specifically today to someone who is struggling with leaving behind your past... Can you forget? Can you walk away from an old memory...

Can you forgive that family member that has done your wrong? Can you "forsake all..."?

"Sitting alone digging up bones... exhuming things that are better left alone... resurrecting memories that are dead and gone..."

You can't walk away from being done wrong in order to follow Jesus. And until you are able to put the past behind you, you will never be able to follow God with your whole heart. You must forgive, forget, and let go.

Success? Failure? Old friendships? A job? Money? Fame? Education?

Luke 5:27 After these things He went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, **“Follow Me.”**²⁸ **So he left all, rose up, and followed Him.**

Matthew was a Jew who collected taxes for the Roman government. It was a lucrative business, as tax collectors worked on commission. Many overcharged, and the Jews hated them.

The religious leaders considered tax collectors “unclean” because of their close contact with the Romans. *Matthew possibly had the most to lose by following Jesus. Once he quit, there was no going back to tax collecting.*

But for someone who spent his life feeling despised, to have Jesus call him to be a follower must have felt wonderful! It is entirely possible that Matthew had heard Jesus and his teachings or seen him perform miracles. Either way, Matthew didn't hesitate when called.

Jesus is looking for people who will follow Him without hesitation... Can you do it?