

## Luke 9:51-62

<sup>51</sup>When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup>And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; <sup>53</sup>but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup>When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" <sup>55</sup>But he turned and rebuked them. <sup>56</sup>Then they went on to another village.

<sup>57</sup>As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." <sup>58</sup>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." <sup>59</sup>To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." <sup>60</sup>But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." <sup>61</sup>Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." <sup>62</sup>Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

- What are you hearing in this text?
- Last week the sermon spoke briefly about the themes that run beneath the text. What if anything do you notice that might be read but not immediately seen?
- Share an example of an "unwanted destination" in your own life. Why are you hesitant to "go there"? What holds you back?
- What is significant about the phrase, he set his face to go to Jerusalem?
  - When have you done something like that?
- What's your take on the fox and bird language compared to the Jesus having no place to lay his head?
  - Which would be more comforting to you? Why?
  - Why do you think Jesus had no place to lay his head? What might that mean?
- Why is comfort such an enticing thing?
  - What can comfort do to us?
  - What can it do to us as us a faith community seeking to follow Jesus and our call as people of God?
  - When has comfort won out in your life?
- Where do our calls take us? Are we called to sacrifice our homes and beds for this call?

- IF not, then what?
- What does it mean to put your hand to the plow and not look back (vs. 62)?
- What does this teach us about how we should respond to our enemies or those who reject us?
  - How do you often want to respond to those who oppose you or reject you?
- How do the disciples respond to the rejection of the Samaritans? What is their attitude?
  - How does Jesus respond to the disciples? What does this tell us about Jesus?
- What is significant about what Jesus and his disciples finally did in verse 56?
- If we are to make our life's destination to follow Jesus, what will it cost us to do so?
  - What are two or three major barriers that you face that make that destination so difficult?

### **Galatians 5:1, 13-25**

<sup>1</sup>For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

<sup>13</sup>For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. <sup>14</sup>For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>15</sup>If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

<sup>16</sup>Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup>For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. <sup>18</sup>But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. <sup>19</sup>Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, <sup>20</sup>idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, <sup>21</sup>envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup>By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. <sup>24</sup>And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup>If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.