

Luke 9:51-62

⁵¹When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵²And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; ⁵³but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴When 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?" ⁵⁵But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶Then they went on to another village.

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

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

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

¹³For 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. ¹⁴For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For 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. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, ²¹envy, 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.

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

Luke questions

- What sticks out to you in this?
- What is significant about the phrase, he set his face to go to Jerusalem?
- What is one of the greatest obstacles to “unconditional obedience”?
 - What else gets in our way?
- Why doesn't Jesus have anywhere to lay his head on? Someone should have built him a house right?
- What is the purpose of sending messengers ahead?
- How do you respond when good news is rejected?
- What does it say about the disciples that they wanted fire and brimstone as a tactic?
 - About us?
 - About those who do not hear?
- How do you feel about this call to follow?
 - Would you be able to follow without looking back? Why or why not?
 - Is this a realistic way to follow?
- Are we ready to give up everything for the sake of love, forgiveness and grace? Homes? Security? Education? Family? What are you not willing to give up for the sake of Jesus?

Galatians questions:

- What sticks out here?
- What have we been set free from?
- How might we be slaves to one another?
 - Doesn't that run counter to vs 1?
- How might these two texts link with one another?
- Do these fruits manifest without warning and fully matured or are they cultivated over time?
- How would you describe each of the fruit of the Spirit listed here? Do you think that this list is meant to be exhaustive? Why or why not?
- Are there fruits that do not appear on this list? If so, what?
- Does anyone NOT have any of these fruits?
 - Does anyone have them all?
- What would need preached from these texts on Sunday?