



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS for March 3, 2024

Sermon Title: Deviation

Sermon Series: Via – The Road We Choose

Preacher: Glyn Norman

Theme/concept “Deviation” – we can choose any number of paths to take in life. Much of the struggle inherent in life is in knowing which road to take. God knows our struggle. By becoming human himself, God shows us a life of walking the right road. So even when people want to follow Jesus, just give them (perhaps alarmingly) clear guidance about what the right road – truly following him – really looks like.

Icebreaker (for groups) Think about a time when you said to one of your friends, “If there’s anything you need, just ask,” then realized that you were unable to follow through on your offer. Share your story.

Reflections on the Sermon

What were your takeaways from the sermon?

Scripture (New International Version)

Luke 9:51

As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.

Luke 9:56-62

⁵⁶ and they went to another village.

⁵⁷ As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

⁵⁸ Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

⁵⁹ He said to another man, "Follow me."

But the man replied "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

⁶¹ Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family."

⁶² Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

Reviewing the Scripture

1. Luke 9:51 gives us 2 pieces of information. What are they?
2. Our text picks up again with Luke 9:56. Read Luke 9:52-55. Why did Jesus and his disciples have to go to another village?
3. What happens in verse 57?
4. In verse 58 what does Jesus reply?
5. What happens in verse 59?
6. In verse 60 what does Jesus reply?
7. What happens in verse 61?

8. How does Jesus reply in verse 62?

Going Deeper

1. Luke 9:51 hints at a possible reason why Jesus was unwilling to wait for prospective followers to finish earthly business before following him. What is it? What does this verse reveal about God?
2. Rewrite verses 57 and 58 in your own words. What does Jesus want the man to realize about following Jesus?
3. Compare verses 57 and 59. How are they the same? How are they different?
4. Compare the statement of each man in verses 57 and 59. How are they the same? How are they different?
5. The phrase, "Let me go and bury my father," (verse 59) was an idiomatic expression meaning, "Let me wait until I receive my inheritance." Put yourself in that man's place. What could have been his thinking?
6. Based on Jesus' response in verse 60, how is Jesus' thinking different from that of the man who wants to first "bury his father"?

7. Read Luke 5:4-11. How is the response to Jesus of Peter, James, and John different from the responses of the 3 nameless men in Luke 9:57-62? What did these 3 men miss?

8. Look again at Luke 9:62. Think about others in the Bible who looked back or who didn't look back. For help see Genesis 19:17 and 26, Philippians 3:13. Compare the results of their respective choices.

Application

1. What have you learned from this passage that you can apply to your current situation in life?

Possible Serve Opportunity

Join Ladies Night at OCRM Monday, March 18, 6:15 pm.

Closing Prayer

Gracious God, we desire to follow you, but we allow the cares of our earthly lives to get in the way. Forgive us when we place temporal values ahead of eternal ones. Forgive us when we make rash promises that we can't keep. Thank you for the example of Jesus who resolutely followed your plan. To him be glory now and forever!
Amen