

RADICAL



Radical Abandonment

Luke 9:57-62

Big Idea for the Series: There's a subtle, creepy, sly enemy of *authentic* Christian living that sneaks into our life and wreaks havoc. If you've ever wondered if there's more to Christianity than you're experiencing, you're right. In *Radical*, we'll talk about what may be lacking and how to get it in your life.

The Bottom Line for this message: Throw off everything that hinders you from following Jesus.

Introduction:

Every time Jesus invited someone to follow him, He used the same word, "*akoloutheō*."

It means to follow, to accompany, to be a disciple, apprentice.

Jesus always spoke this word in the present imperative tense indicating a continuous, lifelong, calculated, carefully decided, permanent commitment not a momentary, emotionally driven, manipulated, impulsive decision.

Following Jesus is not an event.
Following Jesus is a way of life.

Jesus never accepts a half-hearted, lukewarm disciple.
It's all or nothing with Christ!

Struggle:

We desperately want more and more comfort, and Jesus doesn't promise any!
In fact, He will probably call you to forsake all your comfort and do something way out of your comfort zone.

We desperately want more and more financial freedom, and Jesus doesn't promise any of that either. In fact, He will probably call you to give away everything you have.

We desperately want acceptance, and Jesus promises just the opposite. "You will be hated by everyone because of me (Matthew 10:22 NIV)."

So, what do we do?

Is Jesus *really* worth giving up every comfort you know?
Is Jesus *really* worth abandoning all your precious possessions?
Is Jesus *really* worth losing every relationship you hold dear?

Will He settle for less?

In Luke 9:57-62, we meet three people who faced these exact issues.

Truth:

In Luke 9:57, a scribe approaches Jesus and says, “I will follow You wherever You go.” But Jesus saw his heart, and said ((VERSE 58)).

“Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head (Luke 9:58).”

He was not willing to deny himself anything.

He was not willing to take up his cross and die.

He wanted to be in on the benefits of following Jesus but not on the sacrifice.

He wanted the miracles but not the cross.

Is Jesus *really* worth giving up every comfort you know?

Jesus turned to another and said, “Follow Me (Luke 9:59).”

To which the man replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”

What a reasonable request! What was Jesus’ response?

“Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God (Luke 9:60).”

The problem is - the man’s dad wasn’t dead. He wanted to delay following Jesus until he had received his inheritance. He was not willing to leave everything and follow Jesus.

This man was more committed to personal riches than spiritual riches. Are you?

Is Jesus *really* worth abandoning all your precious possessions?

Another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but first, let me go back and say goodbye to my family (Luke 9:61).”

This man was willing to leave his inheritance he **just** wanted to say goodbye to his friends and family. Certainly, Jesus will allow that, right?

But Jesus said, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God (Luke 9:62).”

Again, Jesus knows his heart. Had he gone home, he would have been talked out of following Jesus. His family ties were simply too strong for him to break away.

Who doesn’t want acceptance? Who doesn’t want affirmation they’ve made the right decision?

Jesus calls for complete, wholehearted dedication to him no matter what. It is **impossible** to follow Christ with a divided heart, so the question we must ask ourselves ...

Is Jesus *really* worth losing every relationship you hold dear?

One trusted their **comfort** more than Jesus. Do you?

Another trusted his **money** more than Jesus. Do you?

Yet another trusted his **relationships** more than Jesus. Do you?

*“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep
to gain what he cannot lose.”*

– Jim Elliott

Salvation does not belong to anyone who does not radically abandon everything to follow Jesus.

“If anyone would come after me, he **must** deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it.

What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?” – Luke 9:23-25

In light of all that, what should we do? How does this principle intersect with our lives?

Application:

Throw off everything that hinders you from following Jesus.

Next Steps:

- Memorize Luke 9:23
- List everything that hinders you from following Jesus.
- Repent of putting **IT** ahead of Christ.
- Throw **IT** Off