

What have you got to lose?

July 22, 2018

The story of three people... and three different excuses.

As they were walking along, someone said to Jesus, "I will follow you wherever you go." But Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head."

He said to another person, "Come, follow me." The man agreed, but he said, "Lord, first let me return home and bury my father." But Jesus told him, "Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead! Your duty is to go and preach about the Kingdom of God."

Another said, "Yes, Lord, I will follow you, but first let me say good-bye to my family." But Jesus told him, "Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God." (Luke 9:57-62, NLT)

1. The first person...

As they were walking along, someone said to Jesus, "I will follow you wherever you go."

It is easy to get caught up in the emotion of the moment.

We want the benefit, but are we willing to make the sacrifice?

But Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head."

Four questions to ask yourself.

1. Does this build me up spiritually?
2. Does this bring me under its power?
3. Do I have an uneasy conscience about this?
4. Would this cause harm to someone else's faith?

2. The second person...

He said to another person, "Come, follow me." The man agreed, but he said, "Lord, first let me return home and bury my father."

This was a commonly used expression.

It meant, "I cannot make a commitment like that right now."

Jesus response:

But Jesus told him, "Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead! Your duty is to go and preach about the Kingdom of God."

3. The third person...

Another said, "Yes, Lord, I will follow you, but first let me say good-bye to my family."

This person is saying, "I don't want trouble at home."

Yet, following Jesus will cause friction in our homes at times.

But Jesus told him, "Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God."

There is both a danger and an opportunity in the unseized moment.

It is hard to move forward when you are looking backward.