

Objection Sunday
Pastor: Morgan Murray
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Texts:

Luke 9:57-10:3,

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-by 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."

10:1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. 2 He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. 3 Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.

Luke 9:23-25

23 Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. 25 What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self? 26 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. 27 I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God."

Intro:

Last week I talked about how I am a "disciple" of Coach Terry. The first time I attended one of his fitness boot camp classes, it was awful. I was exhausted, sore, out of breath, feeling a little sick. I had lots of reasons to STOP.

But all those reasons to stop were the same reasons I needed to continue. The awfulness was a clear indication that I was terribly out of shape. Then I asked myself: When am I going to find time to exercise regularly? I thought:

I can't exercise during the day. I need to be at work.

I can't exercise in the evenings. I have evening meetings.

I can't exercise on the weekends. I have church and need to be with my family on the weekends.

Then I realized: You just convinced yourself that you won't be able to get in shape until you retire and your kids are grown.

This is what I like to call a "Rational Lie." Whenever we rationalize, we tell ourselves very reasonable rational lies. But they are lies nevertheless.

That is what the people Jesus encounters in Luke 9:57 and following do. They tell rational lies to explain why they want to follow Jesus, and fully intend to follow Jesus, but can't do it yet.

Reasons Why I Can't Be A Disciple who Makes Disciples

1. It's not the right time.

Jesus' response: "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

The first person says he needs to go bury his father. We might think he's talking about conducting a funeral next week, but this is more likely the man's way of saying, "Once I've fulfilled all my obligations to my father, then I can begin following you and your lifestyle." Similarly, another person says in essence, "I fully intend to follow you, but first I need to go back to my family and work it out with them." Jesus sees through this. If you are going to make following Jesus conditioned on the approval of others, or only after the rest of your life is put together, then you will never do it. It's just a rational lie.

2. I don't know enough.

Jesus' response: You are going to learn by doing.

He appoints people to go ahead of him, and to pray that the Lord of the harvest will send out more workers. The answer to the world's problems isn't more information or education. It's more people taking what they already know and putting it into practice.

3. It's too hard.

Jesus' answer: You're right. IT IS HARD. But it beats the alternative.

23 Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. 25 What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?"

Application for the Week: Notice the objections you have to the idea of discipling someone else. Just noticing them is the first and most important step to letting God change your heart about them.

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