

**Jesus is on the Move**  
**Luke 9:51-62; Genesis 12:1-3**  
**6/27/10**

“Sick” by Shel Silverstein

“I cannot go to school today,”  
Said little Peggy Ann McKay.  
“I have the measels and the mumps,  
A gash, a rash and purple bumps.  
My mouth is wet, my throat is dry,  
I’m going blind in my right eye.  
My tonsils are as big as rocks,  
I’ve counted sixteen chicken pox  
And there’s one more— that’s seventeen,  
And don’t you think my face looks green?  
My leg is cut, my eyes are blue—  
It might be instamatic flue.  
I cough and sneeze and gasp and choke,  
I’m sure that my left leg is broke—  
My hip hurts when I move my chin,  
By belly button’s caving in,  
My back is wrenched, my ankle’s sprained,  
My ‘pendix pains each time it rains.  
My nose is cold, my toes are numb,  
I have a sliver in my thumb.  
My neck is stiff, my spine is weak,  
I hardly whisper when I speak.  
My tongue is filling up my mouth,  
I think my hair is falling out.  
My elbow’s bent, my spine ain’t straight,  
My temperature is one-o-eight.  
My brain is shrunk, I cannot hear,  
There is a hole inside my ear.  
I have a hangnail, and my heart is— what?  
What’s that? What’s that you say?  
You say today is...Saturday?  
G’bye, I’m going out to play!”

Jesus has heard very excuse in the book! This passage included several.

Jesus is now focused on Jerusalem and facing the suffering of the cross. “When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.” The preaching, teaching, and healing begin to fade, as he begins to think about his death. His end is near and life on earth

numbered. He is more intentional in what he does, as he walks towards Jerusalem. As Jesus is walking, he encounters people with excuses.

C. S. Lewis wrote a wonderful series of books for children. The first book in the series is titled, "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe." Three children find their way through a wardrobe into an enchanted world called Narnia. The enchanted characters fighting against the powerful witch encourage each other with reports of Aslan coming to save them. Aslan is the great lion who represents Jesus in the story. They say to each other, "Aslan is on the move."

As he focuses on Jerusalem, Jesus is on the move. The first incident is not an excuse but rejection.

Jesus sends some of his disciples ahead of him to a Samaritan town to find "overnight accommodations." Now the Samaritans do not get along with Jewish people. They were mutual enemies. When they find out that Jesus is heading to Jerusalem, they do not accept him. This could be an age old battle over the best place to worship Jerusalem or Mt. Gerizim. There is room for the Samaritans to follow Jesus, but they are stuck in their conditions. "Do it our way and we will follow you" is sort of what they are saying.

The disciples want to punish them...but Jesus is heading for the cross.

As they were going to another town, Jesus encounters several potential followers.

1. Statement – I will follow you wherever you go  
Response – foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.

This person has good intentions, it seems. Evidently he or she is not counting the cost of following Jesus wherever he goes. Jesus is in essence saying, "I have no pillow and I have no home." I am walking a lonely road to my death. Will you follow me there?

2. Statement (by Jesus) – Follow me  
Response (by person) – but he said, Lord, let me first go bury my father  
Statement (by Jesus) – Let the dead bury their own dead; Go and proclaim the kingdom of God.

It was a sacred obligation to bury one's parents. We don't know if this person's father was in the process of dying or already dead. Those details are left out. "Letting the dead bury the dead" sounds harsh and insensitive but Jesus is on the move.

3. Statement – I will follow you Lord but first let me say farewell to those in my home  
Response – no one puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God

There is something this person must do first before following Jesus. Saying good-by sounds harmless but what if the family talks him out of following Jesus. What if he is going back for their advice?

Jesus is on the move. There is urgency in these conversations. "As they were walking along the road...." The writer invites us to walk along with Jesus to hear these conversations. There are first.... There is something else more important to do first before following Jesus.

As Jesus is walking towards Jerusalem, imagine he comes by and invites you follow him.

He knocks on your front door – follow me

He calls you on the phone at your place of work – follow me

You are waiting in line at Kroger and Jesus walks up behind you in line with a few items for eating on the road – follow me

Or for some of you, Jesus sends you a text while you are watching a movie – follow me

How do you respond?

Any excuses?

I will follow you but first... I will get serious with you Jesus after I get my family settled – after I get my work under control and have more time – I finish my goals – after I am healed – after I feel better...

What delays you're following Jesus?

What is slowing you down or holding you back from following Jesus?

In each of these scenarios – the stubborn town and preoccupied candidates, there is room behind Jesus. We do not know if these individuals followed Jesus or attempted to take care of their other priorities. We don't know. I would like to believe they followed Jesus. I want to believe they listened to him.

Jesus gives one command – "Go and proclaim the Kingdom of God. This means live your life with this purpose – telling, showing, and sharing the saving grace and love of God in Jesus Christ. The "Go" captures Jesus' on the move.

I think the point here is if something is more important to you than proclaiming the Kingdom of God, then you need to hear Jesus' strong words. When we say, "I will follow you, Jesus, but first... he says something challenging back to us naming our misplaced priority.

You can go and proclaim without going to Jerusalem. Jesus has already gone there and died there. Most of the time God is not asking us to leaves all that is familiar like Abraham. You can go and proclaim when you are home, on the phone at work, waiting in life at Kroger, or watching a movie.

What is most important to you?