

**Sermon: Following Christ to the Cross.**  
**Series: Luke: The Good News for Everyone.**

**Scripture: Luke 9:51-62**  
**Date: October 20, 2024**

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**OBSERVATION** -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

**INTERPRETATION** -- Answer these questions together:

**1. What does this passage teach us about God?**

a) Read Exodus 34:6-7. God is described as steadfast love and faithfulness. In what way is the cross of Jesus the greatest display of God's steadfast love and faithfulness? Why must a disciple of Jesus also share in these qualities?

**2. What does this passage teach us about us?**

a) In our passage, James and John lacked love and mercy, and the wannabe disciples lacked faithfulness and dedication. Which of the people in the passage can you relate to the most?

b) Review verses 57-62. Do Jesus' responses seem harsh to you? What lesson is Jesus trying to teach us? Specifically, what lesson is Jesus teaching you from this passage?

c) If you say "I'll obey Christ if I get X, or I'll obey Christ so that I get X," you have an allegiance to something other than Christ (Tim Keller). When have you found yourself thinking this way?

**3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?**

a) Verse 51: Jesus alone was resolved to go to Jerusalem to die on the cross. Why is Jesus the only one who could die on the cross for our sins?

b) Why couldn't God forgive us without Jesus dying on the cross? Do you know how to answer this question? (Think about justice and what the cross accomplishes besides just forgiveness – Galatians 2:20)

c) Compare Luke 9:62 with Matthew 11:28-30. How are these two scriptures similar? How are they different? How does Matthew 11:28-29 point to our salvation and union with Christ?

**APPLICATION**

a) In verses 57-62 we see discipleship without discomfort, discipleship without priority, and discipleship without dedication. In what ways can you see the Holy Spirit working on you in these areas? How does the gospel allow you to embrace discomfort, priority, and dedication for Christ?

**PRAYER**

- Thank God for his steadfast love and faithfulness in your life.
- Confess ways that have failed to show mercy to others and dedication to Christ this week.
- Thank Jesus for going to the cross in your place, and for causing you to die with him on that cross.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to grow in your mercy and dedication so that the Kingdom of God might be proclaimed.