



Pathways
NEW SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Matthew 9:9

9 As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man called Matthew, sitting in the tax collector's booth; and He said to him, "Follow Me!" And he got up and followed Him.



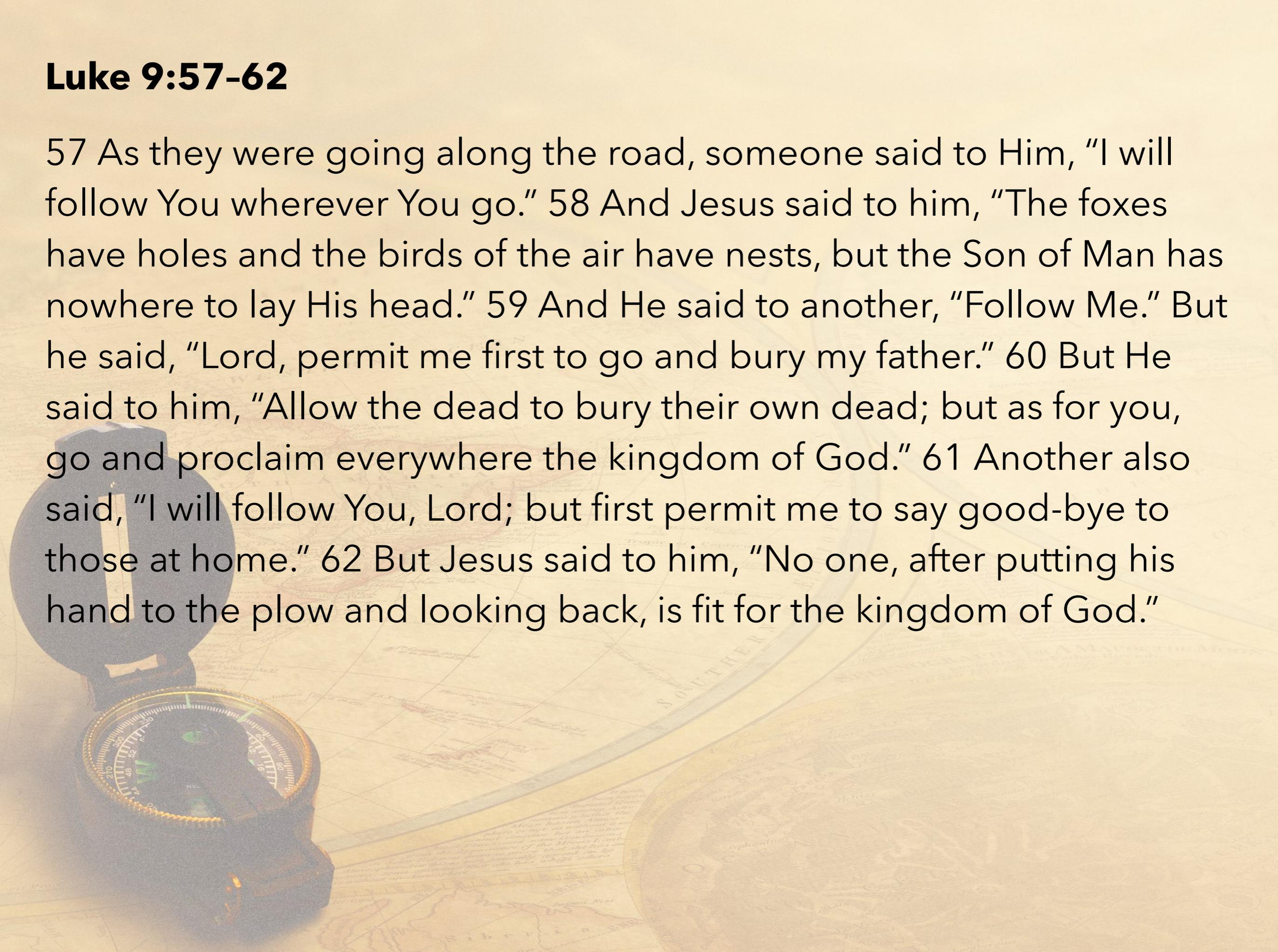
Matthew 9:23-25

23 When Jesus came into the official's house, and saw the flute-players and the crowd in noisy disorder, 24 He said, "Leave; for the girl has not died, but is asleep." And they began laughing at Him. 25 But when the crowd had been sent out, He entered and took her by the hand, and the girl got up.



Luke 9:57-62

57 As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, "I will follow You wherever You go." 58 And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." 59 And He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father." 60 But He said to him, "Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God." 61 Another also said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home." 62 But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

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Luke 14:25-34

25 Now large crowds were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, 26 "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. 27 Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. 28 For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, 30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' 31 Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? 32 Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. 33 So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.

34 "Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned?"

- All we have to do is answer the question, "What does it mean to follow Jesus?"
- It must have something to do with obedience; not all, but some
 - Do the next thing you're reasonably certain Jesus wants you to do—and it within the next ten seconds—Clare deGraaf
- Some of it has to do with us saying to Jesus, "How can I get to know you better?"



Luke 9:23-25

23 And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

24 For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. 25 For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?



- 8 times Jesus calls people with, "Follow me"; talks about it 23 times
 - Simplest way to read that is that Jesus is in front of us and we have to give in to him being first
- When we are outmatched by problems and pain, buried in our circumstances—the good news is that Jesus says, "Follow me"
 - We ask for plans and God gives us Jesus, who says, "Follow me"
 - What I have to do is get up and follow
- Some of us are backseat drivers, telling God how best to bless and lead us
 - We are convinced that avoiding difficulties is best!

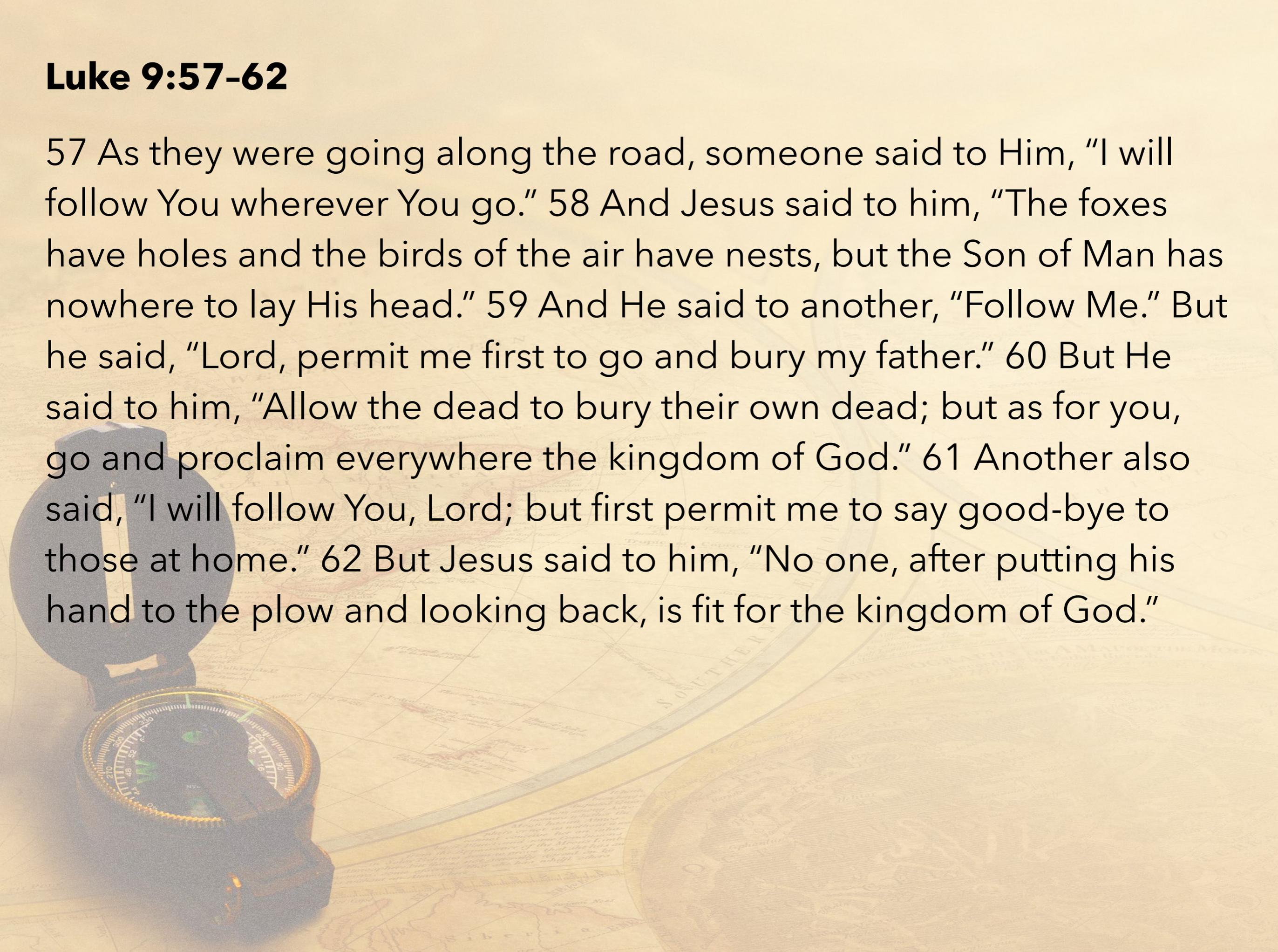


- V. 23—what does it mean to deny yourself and follow Christ?
 - There is an aspect of denying myself for some creature comforts that stand in the way of me following Christ
 - Deeper—denying my belief that I can do this life without him leading me
- "Follow me" is simple, but I usually don't like it
 - "Don't trust your ability to follow me—follow me!"

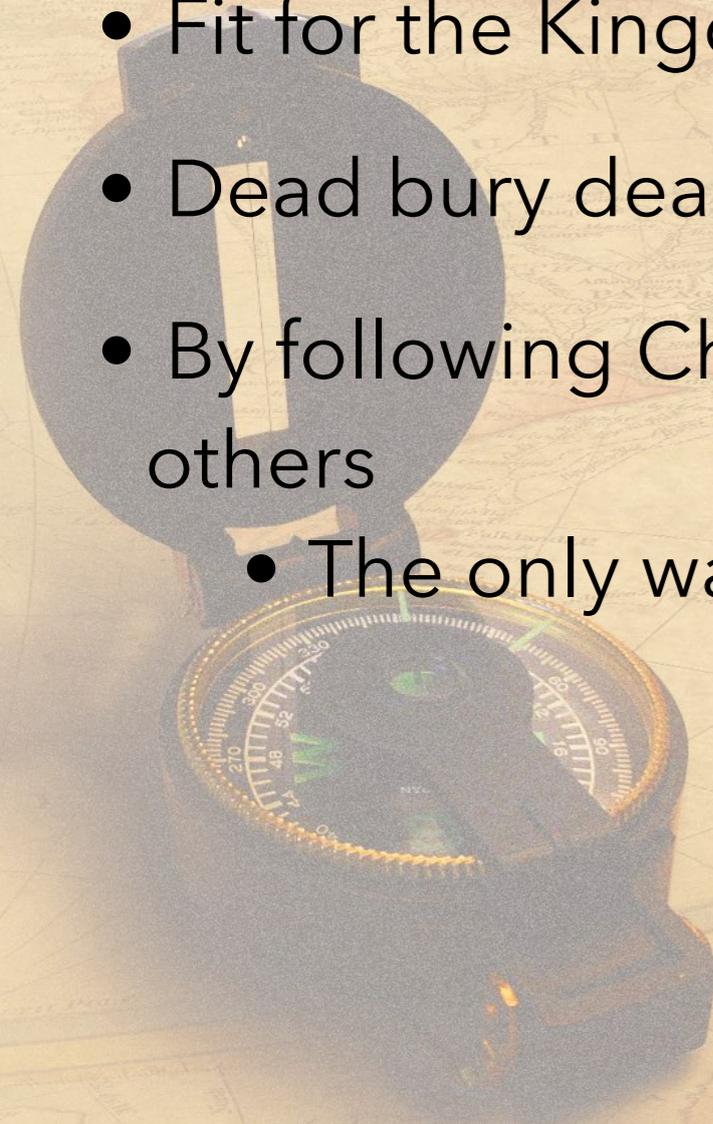


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- Jesus sees into Guy #1's heart and sees that he is following him for comfort and blessings
 - Following Christ is not safe or easy—he's headed to Jerusalem/cross!
- Next 2 guys say I have to first do this or that
 - Jesus says, "I have to be first. I have to be your focus."
- Fit for the Kingdom—not much use if you're focused on Christ
- Dead bury dead—I am the source of life; pay attention to me
- By following Christ, we gain an entirely new identity that replaces all others
 - The only way this happens is through the cross



Luke 14:25-34

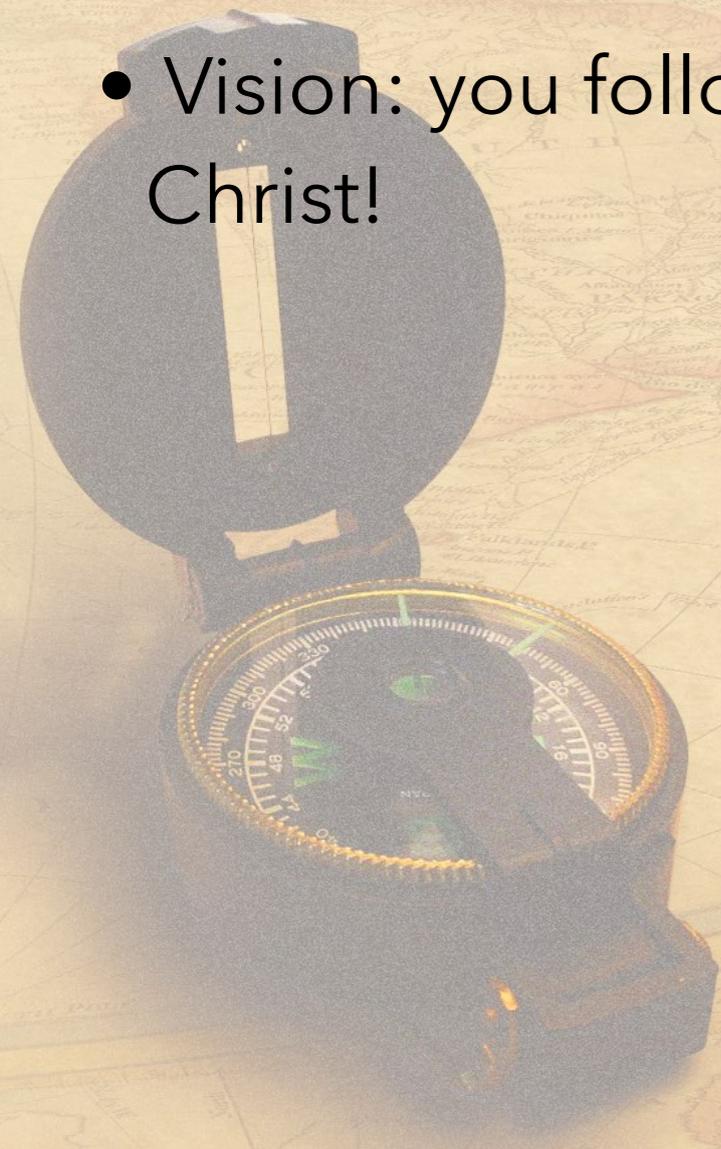
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- Why is Jesus speaking so harshly?
 - He's not speaking for knowledge or information
 - He wants a response!
- Where are you in your relationship with Jesus?
- What do you want in life?
 - Do you want God's best on his road? Or are you happy settling for something else?



- Following Christ and becoming like him is meant to make us into disciple-makers
 - Follow Jesus by leading others to follow him
 - Experience God's presence in discipling others
 - Find joy in doing what Jesus did—pouring yourself out for others
 - This how the Church grows and how churches grow
- Vision: you following Christ and you leading someone else to follow Christ!



- The goal of our lives should be nothing short than becoming so familiar with the mind of Christ that you could write Jesus' speeches!
- Follow the simple promptings from the Lord
- All of the great people of the Bible were ordinary people following an extraordinary God



- How do you un-train your mind from disobedience and train it to obedience/following Christ?
 - Small quick responses to his leading/his words
 - Prepare for the big things to start falling in line
 - Mimic Christ
 - Be so close to him that you are covered in his dust as he walks ahead of you





- Will I believe that Christ is sweeter and better than anything?
- Will I follow him?
- Will I help others know and follow him?

