

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

Psalm 16

I have set the Lord always before me. (v8)

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Luke 9:51-62

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God, ruler of all hearts, you call us to obey you, & you favor us with true freedom. Keep us faithful to the ways of your Son, that, leaving behind all that hinders us, we may steadfastly follow your paths, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Luke 9:51-62

⁵¹When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵²And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; ⁵³but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴When his disciples James & John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven & consume them?” ⁵⁵But he turned & rebuked them. ⁵⁶Then they went on to another village. ⁵⁷As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” ⁵⁸And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, & birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” ⁵⁹To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, first let me go & bury my father.” ⁶⁰But Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go & proclaim the kingdom of God.” ⁶¹Another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” ⁶²Jesus said to him, “No one who puts a hand to the plow & looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. At the Transfiguration St. Luke records that Jesus speaks of his “departure” (*exodus* in Greek, 9:28-36); now he writes about being “taken up.” What has Jesus been open about that others- especially the 12 Disciples- aren’t hearing? *See Luke 9:21-22, 43-45, 18:31-34; John 3:14, 24-30, 12:23-24, 14:1-6;*
2. What difference does it make that Jesus freely & intentionally goes to the cross? ** See Psalm 40:6-8; John 10:17-18, 15:10; Romans 5:6-11, 8:31-33; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Galatians 3:13; Ephesians 2:4; Philippians 2:5-11; 1 Timothy 1:15-16; Hebrews 5:5-9, 12:2; 1 John 4:9-10; don’t forget to check surrounding verses for additional context.*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. What distractions pull you away from Jesus’ call to “put your hand to the plow” & participate in his saving work? ** See Small & Large Catechisms; 1st Commandment, SC: Table of Duties; SC, LC available bookofconcord.org*
4. St. Luke has a theme in 8:27, 9:60, 11:47-48, 21:5 (read surrounding verses for more context); where do you look for living faith among (spiritually) dead things? How can you let them “rest in peace”? How would Confession & Forgiveness with your Pastor help you move on?

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. If the church were to ‘raise the bar’ as Jesus seems to demand of us (*cf. vv57-62*), whom do you think might be drawn to the church that is not currently here? ** See Matthew 5:38-48; 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13; Ephesians 5:27; Colossians 1:22; Hebrews 13:20-21; 1 Peter 2:11-12, 3:8-17;*
6. James & John want to defend Jesus’ ministry (& probably their own, too) from the perceived slight by the Samaritans (v53 tells why Jesus isn’t concerned about it). Jesus sternly corrects them in front of the others. Rather than moving on from unwanted outreach, congregations can take the “rejection” personally, becoming bitter, desiring to get even, or fixated on making a “square peg fit a round hole.” When has this happened in your congregation? In your ministry & service? How can you move on like Jesus does, “keeping the main thing the main thing” (vv51, 53)?

*Questions #2, 3, 5 courtesy Rev. Nathan Hilbert, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Athens, GA

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Third Sunday after Pentecost
Series: On the Road with Jesus

06.26.22
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Won't Back Down (Tom Petty)

Jesus won't let anything stand between himself & his destination.

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up,
he set his face to go to Jerusalem. (v51)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. (*John 6:68*)

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