

NO TURNING BACK **LUKE 9:51-62 (ESV)**

51 When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. 52 And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. 53 But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. 54 And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" 55 But he turned and rebuked them. 56 And they went on to another village.

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, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." 59 To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." 60 And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." 61 Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." 62 Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

INTRODUCTION:

This week's sermon challenged us to consider what it truly means to follow Jesus, with resolve, without delay, and with unwavering commitment. In a world full of distractions, compromises, and comfort-seeking, Jesus calls us to a different path: one marked by faithfulness and surrender.

DISCUSS:

Let us reflect on what it truly means to follow Jesus with no turning back; beginning with the unwavering example of Nokseng and his family in "**The Resolve to Follow Jesus**," then examining "**The Cost of Following Jesus – No Excuses, No Delays**," and finally responding to "**The Call to Unwavering Commitment: No turning back, no turning back.**"

1. The Resolve to Follow Jesus (Verses 51-56):

Jesus set His face toward Jerusalem, knowing it would cost Him everything. His decision was driven by purpose, not popularity. True discipleship begins when we fix our eyes on Christ, even when others don't understand or support the direction we are headed.

In what area of your life is God inviting you to take a bolder step of obedience, and how might you align your heart more fully with His direction?

2. The Cost of Following Jesus — No Excuses, No Delays (Verses 57-62):

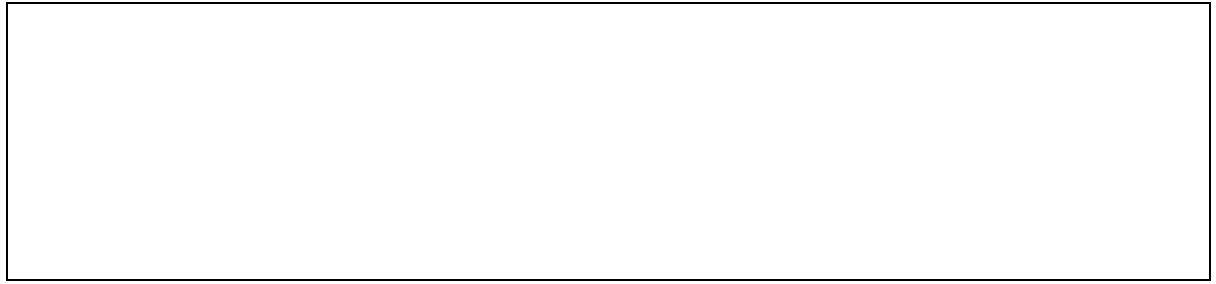
Each of the 3 encounters in verses 57-62 exposes a different hesitation; comfort, delay, or divided priorities. Jesus invites us to follow Him now, not later, and to surrender the things that hold us back.

What personal sacrifice; whether in comfort, relationships, reputation, or ambition, might following Jesus be asking of you right now, and how are you responding to that cost?

3. The Call to Unwavering Commitment — No Turning Back (Verses 62):

Jesus calls us to a forward-facing life, not ruled by past regrets or former attachments. Following Him requires whole-hearted devotion; a faith that says “yes” with no turning back.

How can you stay spiritually anchored to follow Jesus, when you feel tempted to give up, look back, or settle for less than full devotion?



Pray:

1. **For a Heart Resolved Like Christ's** - Pray that we would fix our eyes on Jesus with unwavering resolve, just as He set His face toward Jerusalem. Ask God to give us the courage to walk in obedience even when it's uncomfortable, unpopular, or misunderstood.
2. **To Let Go of Excuses and Delays** - Invite the Holy Spirit to reveal any areas where we are hesitating to obey, whether it's comfort, fear, or convenience holding us back. Pray for grace to surrender excuses and step forward in faith, trusting God's timing and strength.
3. **To Live with Unwavering Commitment** - Declare together a fresh commitment to follow Jesus wholeheartedly, with no turning back. Pray that our lives would reflect forward-facing faith, unshaken by past failures, distractions, or divided loyalties.