

Reflection Questions: Luke 9:51-62

For the message, "The Road to Glory" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on May 24, 2020

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Luke 9:51-62

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."

A summary of the message: As Jesus sets out on his road for glory, we learn that following Jesus must mean that Jesus comes first.

Let's get started...

- What initially grabs your attention in this text? What questions or thoughts arise as you reflect on what it's saying?

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- We're told several times in this passage that Jesus' face was set towards Jerusalem. What do we learn from this about Jesus' singular commitment to doing God's will (cf. John 6:34, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work")?
- Jesus knew what awaited him in Jerusalem, yet he had a long term view that would put those events into perspective? Luke tells us in 9:51, "when the days drew near for him to be taken up...." This referred to his ascension after his resurrection (cf. Hebrews 12:2, "...who for the joy

set before him endured the cross). What do we learn from this about trusting God to work all things for our good?

- When people in this text were making excuses about following Jesus, why do you think Jesus answered the way he did? What was he trying to communicate about their singular commitment? Their top priority?
- And how does this text clarify what God wants to do in my life? In light of this passage, how would you answer the question, “What kind of me is God calling me to be?”

2. Let’s think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus’ followers.

- What comes to your mind when you imagine a group of Jesus’ followers embodying the top priority of following him? What would that look like? How would you know that Jesus comes first in their lives?
- What are some ways we can encourage on another as we apprentice with Jesus? How do you need encouragement or reminders to make or keep Jesus as your top priority day in and day out?

3. Let’s think about how this text applies to our city.

- Many people think religion is a major problem with society. The thinking goes, “If you take religion too seriously, it always leads to extremism and violence.” How does Jesus’ reaction to his disciples desire to “tell fire to come down and consume” the Samaritans help you answer this objection?
- How does this text challenge the thinking of our city, particularly since many people think Jesus is just another inspirational leader who had good things to say?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

- _____
- _____