

**Fresh Fire Ministries**  
**The Expository Teaching Ministry of Jay Duane Driver**

**“You Can’t Turn Back Now”**

*But Jesus said to him, “No one having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” Luke 9:62 (NKJV)*

Jesus is steadfastly focused on Jerusalem. He must go there. It is God’s call, His cause, and what would be the culmination of 3 ½ years of ministry on earth. It was God the Father’s design, intent, and reason that Jesus would become the sin offering for the transgressions of a dying world. He would not be denied. He was determined to do the will of the Father regardless of the cost. Even though for one moment while in prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane He would request that the Father provide another alternative to Him dying on the cross, it was from that venue that He would declare a few of the most powerful words that reverberate even to this day throughout human history, “not my will but let thy will be done.”

In a moment of fleshly influence the disciples who saw the rejection of Jesus by the Samaritans decided to take matters into their own hands. And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Lord do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?” Luke 9:54 (NKJV) They received no concurrence from Jesus so they simply went to another village. It is from this historical backdrop as they journey together that Jesus takes the opportunity to share with us as well as the disciples of that day the cost of discipleship. Discipleship is not to be confused with church membership nor our initial born-again experience. It evolves from our desire, once we are saved to become more like Jesus, to following His teachings, and making Him known to others. Discipleship comes with a cost that cannot be compensated by monetary means.

Jesus deals with three objections on behalf of three individuals whom He encountered as they made their way to another village. The first individual pledges to follow Jesus wherever He goes. But the problem was that Jesus had no permanent residence. (V. 58) The second individual is extended the invitation to discipleship by Jesus. Perhaps without a moment’s hesitation he offers a reasonably acceptable excuse for not accepting Jesus’ invitation. “Lord, let me go first and bury my father.” (V. 59) Interestingly the man’s father had not yet died, so his request was that Jesus would allow him to go on a delayed enlistment program, that he might go home “until” his father died. Then finally there is the third man. He made the same commitment to follow Jesus as the first man, but with the contingency that he be allowed to go home first and bid farewell to those who were at his house. (V. 61) It was obvious that he wanted to postpone his commitment in order to enjoy worldly pleasures one more time.

When we commit ourselves to following Jesus and becoming His disciple it is a life long endeavor of desire, devotion, and dedication. Should we turn back by taking our hands off the plow we are apt to lose focus. Our sense of direction will be lost, the rows that we plow will not remain straight, and soon we will not be “fit” for the kingdom of God. Please understand what the text means concerning being fit. It is not to suggest that we become unworthy, rejected, or that we lose our salvation. The idea is more of usefulness. We cannot know or address anything that may lie before us on our journey to become more like Jesus if we take our hands off the plow, turn back, and forfeit opportunities to be a part of God’s ongoing purpose on earth. Stay encouraged, stay focused, and keep the faith until Jesus comes. You’ve come much too far to turn back now!