

**On the Road with Jesus: The Road to Action**  
**March 19<sup>th</sup> (Fusion) & 26<sup>th</sup> (Transmitter), 2017**  
**Lynn Haven UMC**

**Introduction**

Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow me.” Luke 9:23 (NLT). As Jesus spoke these words, He was fully aware of the ridicule, pain and suffering that awaited Him. What He needs you and I to be aware of is that, oh by the way, the same type of fate awaits us should we decide to sign up for this lifestyle. Don’t make this decision capriciously. You will have to change. It will not be easy. He goes on to say in Luke 9 verse 24 (NLT): “If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.” Yes, this choice will come with certain sacrifices, but at the end of the day, it is one that is clearly worth making!

**Digging Deeper**

Following Jesus requires...

**Personal Sacrifice**

- When we make the conscious choice to follow Jesus, our lives cannot look the same as they were before. We must become new creations in Christ. How does one begin the work of “dying to self?” When we are no longer consumed with ourselves, it becomes easier to sense the needs and wants of others. Do you find it difficult to honor others above yourself? Why or why not?
- It is a gradual process to become irrevocably changed. What are some things you think you might need to give up or change to truly be “on the road with Jesus?” Ask God how you might deny yourself a little something every day. Small sacrifices train your character and prepare you for the bigger ones you will surely encounter along the road with Jesus.

**Pressing Urgency**

- And now that you are serious about developing a “More of You Lord, less of me” attitude, people should start asking you, “Where’s the fire?” There is a need for urgency in the business of leading people to Christ. That is why Jesus tells us in Luke 9:60 that following Him requires that we do it now! Is there some ministry opportunity that has been tugging at your heart but for whatever reason you have been putting it off? You might have heard the expression, “If you truly want to do something you will find a way. If you don’t, you’ll find an excuse.” Make a decision today to pursue that desire God placed in your heart.

**Prioritized Living**

- Read Joshua 24:15 (NLT). Choose who you will serve. What we value most will be evidenced by where we spend our time and money. Do your calendar and checkbook reflect a life that places serving God first? If they don’t, consider making changes each day that will shift that paradigm. Paradigm shift: an important change that happens when the usual way of thinking about or doing something is replaced by a new and different way. Do you or someone you love need a paradigm shift? It will take time, effort and determination. Discuss the habits or hang ups that tend to get in the way of making God your first priority and how to combat them.

Jesus wants those who join Him on the road to...

Be prepared

- “But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” (1 Peter 3:15 NIV) Hide His word in your heart, know your Bible. As your spiritual maturity becomes evident, you can confidently speak with others about how Jesus has changed your life, and how He can change theirs too. Is there someone you’ve been wanting to reach out to but a fear of not being able to “eloquently evangelize” or “meet them where they are” is holding you back?

Take action

- Matthew 28:19a (NLT): “Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations...” The directive is clear: Go! Don’t talk about going, or make a wish, just go! What are you doing about your ambition to serve Christ? If the last day were to come today, don’t we all want to hear, “Well done, good and faithful servant?” (Matthew 25:23 NLT, paraphrased)

### **Conclusion**

As they were walking along, someone said to Jesus, “I will follow you wherever you go.” But Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head.” He said to another person, “Come, follow me.” The man agreed, but he said, “Lord, first let me return home and bury my father.” But Jesus told him, “Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead! Your duty is to go and preach about the Kingdom of God.” Another said, “Yes, Lord, I will follow you, but first let me say good-bye to my family.” But Jesus told him, “Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God.” Luke 9:57-62 (NLT)

Being on the road with Jesus is the road to action. It wasn’t enough for Christ to want to save the world, He had to do something about it. So He traveled to Jerusalem where He suffered, died, and was raised again. Now He says to us, “If you want to come with me, you’ve got to act accordingly.” You have to be willing to give up all of the comforts of home and the security of family and friends. You have to be urgent in proclaiming the coming of God’s kingdom. You have to make obedience to Christ your number one priority in life. If you choose to get on the road (and stay on the road) with Jesus, it’s a road to action. Not just wanting or intending to do the right things, but actually doing them. What action is Christ calling you to take? What decision is He asking you to make?