

PASTOR'S CORNER



Matthew 8:19-22

19 And a scribe came up and said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." 20 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." 21 Another of the disciples said to him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." 22 And Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead."

FOLLOWING JESUS

Following Jesus is life's highest calling. And it demands the deepest commitment. The two volunteers in today's text came face to face with this crucial truth.

The first volunteer enthusiastically declared that he would follow Jesus wherever He went. Jesus informed him that where He was going lacked some of the usual "necessities" of life. Although wild animals and birds have sanctuaries to which they retire as needed, the Son of Man possessed no such resources. Even though Jesus is Lord of all, those who follow Him must not be misled into thinking that they are embarking on a life of ease and comfort. Jesus' focus is on eternal issues so He and those who follow Him must hold lightly to the things of this life. We must realize that we will have to surrender some of the "normal" expectations of life for a higher and greater calling. We may not

have temporal material shelter or prosperity, but we will invest in eternal realities.

The second volunteer wanted to bury his father before following Jesus. It is unlikely that this man's father was lying dead at home at the very moment he was speaking to Jesus because Jewish culture expected a corpse to be buried within twenty-four hours of death. So, if his father were already dead, he would have been at home participating in the burial. It seems like this volunteer was seeking permission to take care of his future familial responsibilities and then follow Jesus. Jesus' seemingly sharp answer to "let the dead bury their dead" was, in reality, a demand to grasp the immense difference between earthly and heavenly priorities. Following Jesus is a matter of eternal significance both for the disciple and those to whom he will minister. It is an urgent matter because no one knows how

much time we have left on earth. Therefore, we cannot serve God at our convenience. We must respond at once to His call on our lives. We cannot let even good things usurp the better (best) thing.

We are not told how the two would-be disciples responded to Jesus, but we know that, like them, many of us are willing to follow Jesus as long as He meets our conditions. But Jesus will not bargain with us. He has one condition: we must subordinate all else to Him and His call on our lives. He offers us the privilege of knowing and serving Him, if we will totally surrender to Him. Are you willing to pay the price? Are you willing to follow Jesus?

The highest calling requires the deepest commitment.

God bless you!

Pastor James

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- All members interested in serving as ushers please stay back after the service on March 16th for a brief meeting.
- We have suspended our livestream while we work on resolving some serious technical issues. Sorry for any inconvenience.
- Growth Groups continue this Thursday & Friday at 7 pm at church. Sign up at the Information Center to attend one convenient to you.
- The Billy Graham Rapid Response Team will be hosting a free Sharing Hope in Crisis training seminar in Philadelphia on March 29. Register now to attend: <https://events.billygraham.org/event/shicphiladelphiaapa/summary>
- We receive a Building Fund Offering every 4th Sunday. Be sure to put your contribution in the specially marked envelopes.
- Check out our Spiritual Growth Resource Library to find resources to help you in your Christian development. We add new resources from time to time.
- Help Needed: If you'd be willing to bring refreshments on a Sunday, speak to Becky or Lori.
- Join us on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 3:15 pm at the Garden at Stroud as we sing and share the gospel with the residents. Contact Tom for more information.
- Check out The Exchange on our webpage where you can list items you'd like to give away, and/or claim items which are listed.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CORPORATE PRAYER TUE @ 7 PM

MAR 11

Join us via Zoom video

Please contact Pastor James for log on information at rcantio@gmail.com

YOUTH GROUP

FRI @ 6:45 PM

MAR 14

In-person at church.

For teens ages 13 and over

EVENING SERVICE 1st & 3rd SUN @ 6 PM

MAR 16

Join us online

KIDZONE & NURSERY SUN @ 11 AM

MAR 16

These ministries are available every Sunday during the morning service

Kidzone for ages 6-12 yrs. old.

WORSHIP SERVICE SUN @ 11 AM

MAR 16

In-person service and Livestreaming on Facebook, Youtube and our webpage.

GROWTH GROUPS BEGIN THU & FRI @ 7 PM

MAR 13 & MAR 14

In-person at church.

WAYS TO GIVE

Traditionally during the Sunday morning service, with a check by mail or through our secured website.

Please remember to hit "SAVE" after you give if you did not set up an account so the church can have a record of who gave for tax purposes.

Thank you!