

Series Introduction

I read this verse a while ago and it challenged me. It's found in Luke 9:51. As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. Today we start the countdown to remembering the cross and celebrating the empty tomb. We will walk with Jesus to Jerusalem, following the accounts in the gospel of Luke.

My Question

What are you doing here, Mark?

Our Problem

We all have two kinds of memory. If long-term memory is like a vast library... [our short term or] working memory is a chalkboard on which we rapidly scrawl and erase information. It's easy to test how much you can fit on this chalkboard. Just have a friend make a list of ten words or numbers. Read the list once, and then try to recall the items. Most people max out at seven or fewer.

Citation: In the Brain, Seven Is A Magic Number, November 23, 2009 By Lauren Schenkman
<http://phys.org/news/2009-11-brain-magic.html>

God's Perspective

Luke 9:51-62 NIV

As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" But Jesus turned and rebuked them. Then he and his disciples went to another village. As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." He said to another man, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family." Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

Slaving for the Urgent

Several people were slaving for the urgent in these paragraphs.

- The Samaritan villagers were focused on an ancient disagreement their people had with the Jews about where to worship.
- The disciples were intent on making the villagers pay for refusing to sell them food.
- One potential disciple seemed to be focused more on comfort than on knowing Jesus.
- Another was more concerned about waiting for his father to die before following Jesus.
- A third potential Jesus follower wanted to wait until he had his family's blessing.

Jesus is different

While others were slaving away for their individual lists of urgent items, Jesus kept walking to Jerusalem.

- When the Samaritans said they would not feed them Jesus kept on walking.
- When two of his closest disciples want to burn the village to the ground, Jesus rebuked them and kept on walking toward Jerusalem.
- In fact, Jesus encountered the three guys with the I'll-follow-you-later attitudes "as they were walking along the road." Jesus set out resolutely for Jerusalem. He was a man on a mission.

Sermon in a Sentence:

Living on purpose liberates you from slaving for the urgent.

Your Mission

Jesus' mission is your mission. He came to seek and to save those who did not know God. You have the same purpose Jesus had - building God's Kingdom one life at a time.

A New Perspective

You can spend your life slaving for the urgent: refusing to help people who aren't like you; striving to get even with those who hurt you; seeking your own comfort and security; or waiting for your family situation to be perfect. You can have a long list of "Jesus, I'll follow you when..." excuses but to experience the life God created you to enjoy you must carry out Jesus mission.

Jesus said...

Luke 12:29-31 NET

So do not be overly concerned about what you will eat and what you will drink, and do not worry about such things. For all the nations of the world pursue these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, pursue his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

What are you here for?

What will you do? Will you ask for a passion for Jesus' mission – a driving desire to build God's kingdom one person at a time now?