

Luke 9:57-62

- ✓ Discipleship is what Jesus is after not just decisions.
 - ✓ Almost never will you find Jesus accepting only a decision from most folks.
 - ✓ Rich young ruler asks Jesus what he needs to do to inherit eternal life and Jesus doesn't lead him in the sinner's prayer!
 - ✓ The man was a fake, he wanted to add Jesus to his portfolio not sell out, he wanted half credit for asking, but Jesus wouldn't give it to him.
 - ✓ Jesus called people not to a decision but to discipleship: **John 1:43; Matthew 9:9; Mark 1:17.**
 - ✓ Jesus' focus was not a decision but on a direction of life: **John 10:27.**
 - ✓ It's not those decisions aren't important, the thief on the cross couldn't become a follower of Jesus, there was no time.
 - ✓ **John 3:16** is decision.
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- ✓ Nevertheless, **Real decisions lead to a direction of life.**
 - ✓ If your decision doesn't change your direction then you probably didn't make a decision to begin with.
 - ✓ **Luke 9:23**, this is real discipleship because this is a real decision, deny means to disown or disassociate yourself from.
 - ✓ Dying on a cross is what Jesus does for you, it counts for you!
 - ✓ When you decide for Jesus, He calls you to continue in that state forever, "follow" is a present imperative and means "keep on following"
 - ✓ Following assumes a future, assumes continuity.
 - ✓ When Jesus called a person to forgiveness and salvation, He called them for the rest of their lives.
 - ✓ Jesus called people to a way of life not just a decision.
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1. Hot prospects

- ✓ These in our passage were the most likely candidates for deciding for Jesus and following Him.
 - ✓ They were with Him, they saw what He did, they were attracted to Him, they must be true believers, right?
 - ✓ Jesus knew who was fake and who wasn't because He knew their hearts, **John 2:23.**
 - ✓ Jesus had no faith in their faith, and He uses these three individuals to demonstrate what we otherwise couldn't know.
 - ✓ Jesus knew people's hearts and we can't.
 - ✓ We have to accept people's decisions, but the true test is discipleship.
 - ✓ The Bible questions the salvation of all who do not follow Jesus and so should we.
 - ✓ **I would rather think you were not saved and be wrong, than to think that are saved and be wrong!**
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2. Jesus can smell a fake

- ✓ The first man comes to Jesus, not the other way around (we would assume he's for real).
 - ✓ He's just there to hitch a ride on the Jesus star. Like Judas was.
 - ✓ It was a business decision and adding Jesus to his portfolio to hedge against other possible bad investments.
 - ✓ Jesus effectively says, "Yes, there is crown at the end, but there is a cross on the way."
 - ✓ To come to Christ, we have to realize our bankruptcy, "I have nothing, I'm completely a beggar, have mercy on me."
 - ✓ We are not adding Jesus to our portfolio, we're selling it all and investing in Him.
 - ✓ The second guy Jesus calls.
 - ✓ "Let me first go bury my father"? Do you think He would have been out there on the road walking with Jesus if his dad were dead or near death?
 - ✓ "I can't do it right now" doesn't get half credit, it's the same as "NO"!
 - ✓ The third guy, "let me first go say goodbye to my family".
 - ✓ Sounds quite benign, but Jesus knows his heart.
 - ✓ This was a classic excuse in the Middle east, euphemistic for "I just can't right now" nothing specific, just can't.
 - ✓ "A man who wants something finds a way; a man who doesn't will find an excuse."
 - ✓ Jesus quotes back to him from a common proverb of that culture; a Greek poet (Hesiod) "no man plows looking backwards".
 - ✓ This man is committed to looking backwards, even though he's near Jesus, even though he's listening to Jesus. His commitment is elsewhere.
 - ✓ **Luke 9:24-25**; If you'll lose yourself, you'll find yourself!
 - ✓ When we truly come to Christ we say goodbye to our entire self, now He owns us, we are His, nothing comes before Him.
 - ✓ Jesus claims priority in every area and aspect of our lives.
 - ✓ Anything less isn't discipleship.
 - ✓ Discipleship isn't a one-time decision, it's a radical world view.
 - ✓ Discipleship isn't like working a side job, it's your foundation.
 - ✓ Discipleship isn't about joining a new group; it's taking your place in the God's kingdom.
 - ✓ Discipleship isn't another commitment; it is the commitment!
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