

Lesson 2 Matthew 8 18-22 cf v21

Jesus teaching on the demands of discipleship

Mr too quick.

A scribe approached Jesus with his proposal to become a follower. He stated his willingness to follow Jesus wherever He should plan to leave for. He was ready to go worldwide. Jesus responded by quoting the habit of the fox and the birds of the air which though they move considerable distances-in the one case nocturnally and in the other diurnally-both return to their comfort zones-their homes-the den and the nest. Jesus added, "The Son of man has not where to lay his head" Jesus does not offer a bed of roses, a flower strewn pathway. As with Britain at war its leadership could offer nothing more or less than "blood and sweat and tears with the prize of ultimate victory". We hear no more of that scribe-the man used to paper work and not so keen on deprivation, Mr Too quick.

Mr Too Slow

A man of a totally "different" sort who was already a learner-accustoming himself to the rigour of following and obeying said, "Allow me first to go and see my Father laid with his fathers in the tomb. The Greek original makes a demand on the Saviour, "You must allow me first". Jesus' epic reply was "follow me and let the dead bury their dead." Jesus was implying far more than that it is perfectly possible to allow those with no spiritual life to attend to the last offices. He was saying explicitly that those who live and follow Him are doing a job of communicating life. Indeed the first disciples followed to Calvary and the Empty tomb and began with the Holy Spirit's help to proclaim Christ to a dying world.

From Paper to Practice



Why do not so many people propose to become Christians without being mightily moved by the Spirit of God?

What holds many back from following Christ?

Can home responsibilities still conflict with following Christ?

Is there any way we can issue an imperative to the Master while continuing to be a faithful disciple? Illustrate from the life of Thomas and peter!