

Luke 9:51-62

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." 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." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

The Word of God

**THE WORD THAT CALLS FORTH,
THE WORD THAT STIRS LIFE**

²⁷But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.

³⁷Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.

Luke 6

“When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.”

We are told that with this line, Luke signals a shift in his account of Jesus' life and ministry. Here begins an intentional narrative of “Jesus going to Jerusalem.” All the way to chapter 19. The lectionary follows Luke all the way to chapter 19 this summer and fall, all the way to Advent. We are in the season of the Christian year now called “Ordinary Time.” The idea of Ordinary Time is that this is when the church seeks to become, year by year, wiser and more astute concerning what it means to live in the light of the Gospel in our everyday unfolding lives. And the lectionary passages are given to assist us in becoming wiser and more astute.

This opening line is a good place for us to launch out into the season of Ordinary Time. Jesus sets “his face to go to Jerusalem.”

Anyone have travel plans yet this summer? That's kinda like “setting your face.” Kathy and I have set our faces to go to Oregon. And later on we've set our faces to go to Minnesota. We have also set our faces to go back to Europe in two years to celebrate our 35th anniversary. But this “face setting” idea can play out for us day to day too. Every day we set our faces to do something usually, even if it's nothing I suppose. We set our faces to read, to run errands, to visit a friend, to accomplish certain tasks at work, to exercise, to clean the house. We have short term and longer term plans for our lives right? They all depend on some form of “setting our faces.” To set one's face is to keep your eye on the ball.

In Iowa on Friday we watched the World Cup game with Allison. I noticed in one particular shot which isolated a player with the ball and a defender, it looked like the defender kept her focus on the ball, not so much the fancy foot work of the person she was defending. We've all seen highly paid baseball and football players miss what looked to be easy catches because they took their eye off the ball. It's not as easy as it sounds.

Take James and John for instance here in our text. The Samaritans have told Jesus that he and his friends can't come into their village. Jews and Samaritans had issues back in the day. Ok... this refusal is something that might have been expected. James and John want to call down fire on those impolite Samaritans. Jesus corrects them. Back in chapter 6, (a few verses printed in the handout today) Jesus had been very clear about how we respond to enemies, to those who curse us. Jesus turns to James and John, reminding them, rebuking them, to keep their eye on the ball.

Likewise with those who come to Jesus asking to follow him. He tells them all that unless they can keep their eye on the ball, so to speak, then no, they are not fit for what following him means.

What has Jesus set his face upon? What does he expect his followers to set their faces upon? It's not Jerusalem per se. It's this other thing----to be “taken up” I think. And what I think this means is to lose oneself in love for God, to be relinquished into God, to become completely subject to and surrendered to God's love for us. Jesus has decided he's ready to take his Gospel of love, radical enemy love, to Jerusalem, a large city, so that the Gospel of

love can gain wide exposure and, whatever happens, happens. He has set his face on the notion that he is ready to die for this Gospel if need be, to die for love's sake.

Jesus is ready here to give this mission everything he's got. And he calls James and John and others to a piercing clarity about this-----he expects them to give everything they've got. He expects you and me to give everything we've got.

And it's for our own happiness and wholeness really. Here's how that works:

There comes a moment, when we are not yet giving everything we've got, but when the Gospel has become for us the most compelling, the most meaningful reality in our lives. There comes a moment when we have decided to set our faces on Christ, as the true love of our lives, and the peace of that, the peace and purpose of being devoted to him, becomes THE prevailing aspect of our interiority. So that, our experience of ourselves day in and day out, the little things that used to become bigger things, and even many of the bigger things which used to throw us off, the hassles, the disappointments, the rejections, the slings and arrows of life in this fragmented world, fail to throw us off. We find a peace that nothing can diminish.

The Samaritans tell Jesus to get lost. James and John react. They have yet to find their way to the peace we are talking about here. Jesus, as far as we can tell, is unfazed by the Samaritans rejection. Ok-----no biggie-----let's go on to another village. There are other ways to get to Jerusalem. Eye on the ball.

Set your face on the face of the one whose face is set on Jerusalem, whose face is set on being taken up. Pay attention to his Gospel of love so that it becomes your Gospel of love too, a Gospel that would take you up in its beauty and perfection. Put your hand to the plow friend, and don't look back.

SHAPED BY GOD'S WORD-GRACED AT CHRIST'S TABLE

NORTH OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLS OF CHRIST

June 30, 2019

In Jesus' Name, Greetings!

Music for Gathering

Better to gain wisdom than gold, choose discernment rather than silver

BETTER TO BE HUMBLE AMONG THE LOWLY THAN SHARE THE SPOIL WITH THE PROUD

Kindly words are a honeycomb, sweet to the taste, wholesome to the body

A TROUBLEMAKER SOWS STRIFE, A TALEBEARER DIVIDES FRIEND FROM FRIEND

The eyes of the Lord are everywhere

OBSERVING THE EVIL AND THE GOOD

Lighting of the Candles

"The Holy Spirit turns to joy whatever She touches." St. Seraphim

721 My Country 'Tis of Thee

We Welcome One Another as Christ

575 Come and Find the Quiet Center

The Morning Prayer and Musical Response

Silence

"Silence is a mystery of the world to come." St Isaac

Children's Circle

All children thru 5th grade are welcome to come forward. A small outreach offering will be collected for our money jar. Following this time of sharing and prayer, children may attend their very own

"Worship and Wonder" time together in our classroom annex. Child care is offered for infants and toddlers but they are also welcome in the sanctuary.

Prayer for Illumination

May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts

MAY THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELL IN US RICHLY, AMEN.

THE GOSPEL LUKE 9: 51-62

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, amen amen.

The Meditation "Set Your Face" Rev. Rob Carr

"To Bind Up the Nation's Wounds"

Silent and spoken prayers of confession, intercession, thanksgiving

The Offering

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.
As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

384 Here at Thy Table Lord

In the end as in the beginning, God is God
LOVED BY US, WANTED BY US, PRAISED BY US, SERVED BY US
Filling the folk with gifts of the Spirit, making them whole for the good of the earth
FOR BREAD AND WINE, THIS PLACE AND THIS TIME, THANKS BE TO GOD

Pastor's Welcome to the Table
The Words of Institution

The bread we break
IS A SHARING IN THE BODY OF CHRIST
The cup of blessing for which we give thanks
IS A SHARING IN THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

The Communion Prayer
The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, amen.

Following the Lord's Prayer, please come forward by rows to receive the loaf and the cup.
The cup is non-alcoholic by choice of the congregation
Gluten free crackers are available on the table for those who prefer this option
Children also celebrate communion weekly as part of "Worship and Wonder"

452 Here I Am Lord vs 1

Let nothing disturb thee, nothing fright thee
WHO GOD POSSESSETH, IN NOTHING IS WANTING

TO OUR GUESTS----WELCOME!

**SHAPED BY GOD'S WORD AND GRACED AT CHRIST'S TABLE
WE WALK HUMBLY, LOVE DEEPLY, LIVE SIMPLY, AND SERVE JOYFULLY**

We are delighted to include you today. Your presence and participation is a gift to us all. We hope you experience among us the warm spirit of our family of faith and the gracious touch of Christ upon your life. Refreshments and welcoming conversation are available after worship in the Community Room just down the hall. More information about NOCC and the Disciples of Christ is available via Facebook and these websites

www.nocckc.org www.kcdisciples.org www.disciples.org

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

THIS WEEK

Monday 6PM Troop 900
Monday 630PM NOCC Elders
Tuesday 945AM Men's Bible Group
Tuesday 7PM Women's Bible Group
Saturday 745AM Men's Breakfast at Kate's
Saturday 9AM Centering Prayer

Every Sunday this summer at Sunfresh 9AM-----Coffee and Conversation

**Tristen Holt to camp July 9-12
Tall Oaks Conference Center 12778 189th Street Linwood KS 66502**

CHERITH BROOK SEEKING ITEMS

such as small men's and women's undies, sugar, razors, bike locks, gauze pads and medical tape, for their friends experiencing homelessness.

HOSPITALITY TEAM FORMING

The NOCC Board and Elders welcome interested people to form a new ministry team focused on improving all aspects of how we welcome Sunday morning guests. Together we will look at "best practice" resources and seek additional ways we can enhance our ministry of Christ-like hospitality. Interested? Contact Rob