



6/30/19 Luke 9: 51-62 & 1 Kgs. 19: 16b. 19-21

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#### ENTERING THE SCENE:

The call to community as we hear it from our Lord is the call to move away from the ordinary and proper places. Leave your father and mother. Let the dead bury the dead. Keep your hand on the plow and do not look back. Sell what you own, give the money to the poor and come follow me. The Gospels confront us with this persistent voice inviting us to move from where it is comfortable, from where we want to stay, from where we feel at home. Why is this so central? It is central because in voluntary displacement, we cast off the illusion of "having it together" and thus begin to experience our true condition, which is that we, like everyone else, are pilgrims on the way, sinners in need of grace. Through voluntary displacement, we counteract the tendency to become settled in a false comfort and to forget the fundamentally unsettled position that we share with all people. Voluntary displacement leads us to the existential recognition of our inner brokenness and thus brings us to a deeper solidarity with the brokenness of our fellow human beings. Community, as the place of compassion,

therefore always requires displacement. Pgs. 63-4.

Nouwen, Henri, et al. Compassion. NY. Image Books. 1983.

#### Lk. 9: 51-62

Lk. 9: <sup>51</sup> When the days drew near for him to be **taken up**, he set his face to go to **Jerusalem**. <sup>52</sup> And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the **Samaritans** to make ready for him; <sup>53</sup> but they **did not receive him**, because his face was set toward **Jerusalem**. <sup>54</sup> 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?" c <sup>55</sup> But he turned and **rebuked** them. <sup>56</sup> Then they **went on to another village**. <sup>57</sup> As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "**I will follow you** wherever you go." <sup>58</sup> 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." <sup>59</sup> To another he said, "**Follow me**." But he said, "Lord, **first let me go and bury my father**." <sup>60</sup> But Jesus said to him, "Let the **dead bury their own dead**; but as for you, **go and proclaim the kingdom of God**." <sup>61</sup> Another said, "I will **follow you**, Lord; but let me **first say farewell** to those at my home." <sup>62</sup> Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a **hand to the plow and looks back** is fit for the **kingdom of God**."

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** Jesus once again invites those around him and us to follow him. Is there anything you want to do first before truly following Jesus?

**PRAYER:** Leader Jesus, you call me to follow you, and I really do want to do that. But!!!! I need to \_\_\_\_\_, I want to \_\_\_\_\_, and just let me take care of \_\_\_\_\_ first. So I find myself not very different from those you walked this earth with so many years ago. And another thing, how about all those people who are not doing your will? What do you want me to do about them? Ouch! I caught your look of "when will you ever get it" as I stumble along trying to get beyond my own limitations to love. Help me! Amen.