

Perfectly Willing

—Riddles from Q, Week 13—
Matthew 8:18-22//Luke 9:57-62 (NIV)

Matthew
 18 When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake.
 19 Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.”
 20 Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”
 21 Another disciple said to him, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”
 22 But Jesus told him, “Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”

Luke
 57 As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.”
 58 Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”
 59 He said to another man, “Follow me.” But he replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”
 60 Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”
 61 Still another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.”
 62 Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

If you would like to analyze these passages visually, you can: (1) put a box around material that is unique to either gospel; (2) Material that is shared exactly you can underline in both gospels; and (3) Material that is similar you can underline with a dotted line in both gospels.

The Bottom Line:

Be _____ in your _____ to _____.

...by _____ with the _____ of it.

...by _____ in _____ that will strengthen it.

...by being _____ in dealing with what _____ it.

What is one step you can make towards these goals now? _____
 Are you willing to do it? _____ Are you going to do it? _____

On the Cost of Following Jesus (John Stott, *Basic Christianity*, 108)

“The Christian landscape is strewn with wreckage of derelict, half-built towers—the ruins of those who began to build and were unable to finish. For thousands of people still ignore Christ’s warning and undertake to follow him without first pausing to reflect on the cost of doing so. The result is the great scandal of Christendom today, so-called “nominal Christianity.” In countries to which Christian civilization has spread, large numbers of people have covered themselves with a decent, but thin, veneer of Christianity. The have allowed themselves to become somewhat involved; enough to be respectable but not enough to be uncomfortable. Their religion is a great, soft cushion. It protects them from the hard unpleasantness of life, which changes its place and shape to suit their convenience. No wonder the cynics speak of hypocrites in the church and dismiss religion as escapism.”