

Bringing it Home For Sunday, June 29, 2025

By Allison de Kanel



I have a question for you.

Is it hard or easy to be a Christian? What do you think?

Is it easy because you just spend a couple of hours at church on Sunday, and they have coffee hour with treats afterwards, like a party?

Is it hard because you have to spend Sunday morning in church and can't join a sports team, and you know you'd be really good at it, and you want to be with your friends?

Is it easy because you don't have to go hungry and thirsty during the whole day every day for a month, like your Muslim friends do?

Is it hard because you have to learn all sorts of stuff about Jesus and the Bible, and it was thousands of years ago, and you'd rather learn how to build a robot?

We all have our own answers about whether being a Christian is hard or easy.

But in today's Bible story, Jesus seems to be telling his friends, and people who want to be his friends, that following him will be hard. They may not know where they'll sleep at night. They may have to leave everything they've ever known.

Two thousand years ago, following Jesus was really, really hard.

But the early Christians followed Jesus anyway. They knew that Jesus was God's way of loving us, and teaching us how to love each other, and freeing us from being afraid of evil and death. And following Jesus and being a Christian was worth the hard stuff.

Amen.

Today's Gospel - Luke 9: 51-62

When the days drew near for Jesus 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."