

HOLY HELPS

DELAYING OBEYING

Luke 9:59

“Then He said to another, “Follow Me.”

Delayed obedience is disobedience. When Jesus invites, immediate and complete compliance should be our response. In Luke chapter 9, three men have the opportunity of their lifetimes - to company with the Christ. What did they do?

- Man number one - hesitated because of the costs – Luke 9:57, 58
- Man number two - halted because of customs – Luke 9:59, 60
- Man number three - hankered for his companions – Luke 9:61, 62

Augustine, before his conversion, used to say: "Dear Lord, I want to be better, but not now, just a little later on." There is always danger in delay in discipleship, for postponed dedication cools the hearts passion, dims the soul's vision, robs the life of meaning and saddens the Savior.

Delaying obeying is dangerous. Julius Caesar had a letter given to him by Artimedorus the morning he went to the Senate. The letter told him about a conspiracy to murder him, and how he might easily prevent his death; but he neglected to read it and was killed by Brutus.

Opportunity deferred turns into defeat. Shakespeare said,

*"There is a tide in the affairs of men,
Which taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;
Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and in miseries."*

There is the name of a place which illustrates the ill-conceived idea that we can make up our minds about obedience whenever and wherever we want and that place is Kadesh-Barnea, which is situated on the southern border of the Promised Land.

There came a point in the circuitous journeys of the children of Israel when they were within sight of their inheritance. They sent out spies, 12 of them, to report on the land that they were about to take. The majority report, given by 10 cowards, was that the land could not be taken because the cities were too fortified and the enemy was too strong. The minority report, given by Joshua and Caleb, was turned down despite the fact that God had told the people through Moses that they would possess the land. It was at this precise point in their journey, which determined that their future. With the prize before them they refused to take it, and had to continue wandering in the desert for many years where thousands died.

There is a Kadesh-Barnea in every Christian's spiritual life when they face a glorious future if they obey, but many disobey and turn back to wander in the wilderness of the world the remainder of their days and die without ever realizing God's best for their lives.

"On the Plains of Hesitation bleach the bones of countless millions, who, at the Dawn of Victory, sat down to wait, and waiting - died!" – George W. Cecil

However, in a single moment and by a single decision, a life can be changed by responding positively to heaven's invitation to leave the deserts of the world behind and follow the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls.

The advice of the Mother of our Lord Jesus, spoken to the servants at Cana, is ageless advice: *"Whatsoever He says to you, do it!"* I need say no more!

JdonJ