

RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP (LESSON 19)

THE KINGDOM FIRST PRINCIPLE (CONTINUED). One person Jesus asked to follow him replied, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father" (Luke 9:59). This man may have had so much concern about the kingdom, but he was not committed to it. It was hypocrisy for him to call Jesus his Lord. No man can say "me first" if Jesus is his Lord. William Barclay believes "in all probability the man's father was not dead." Most commentators believe the same. MacDonald says, "Whether or not the father had already died makes little difference. The basic trouble as expressed in the contradictory words: 'Lord...me first.' He put himself ahead of Christ. This man wanted to wait. Death can take time. Time is of the essence. 150,000 people slip into eternity every day. It was of no consequence to this man that people were dying while he was content to wait. He had no sense of urgency for reaching the lost. Jesus told him to let the spiritually dead bury the physically dead. We are told to "seek first the kingdom of God" because of the urgency. Funerals are important but not urgent. Radical disciples don't sacrifice the urgent on the altar of the important.