

- I. Turning point in Luke
 - A. Galilean ministry is over
 - B. Beginning his long, circuitous journey to Jerusalem
 - C. Described as his “ascension” (see 2 Kings 2:11)
 - D. But the way to the ascension is the cross
 - E. This is the march toward the capital of the Messiah-King

- II. The journey
 - A. Sends over-eager messengers ahead (literally “ahead of his face”)
 - B. Rejection in a Samaritan village
 - C. James and John, the “Thunder Boys” (Mark 3:17; see Genesis 19:24; 2 Kings 2:10-12)
 - D. Jesus rebukes them
 - E. They go on to another village.

- III. Would-be followers
 - A. “I will follow you wherever you go!”
 - B. “Let me bury my father.”
 - C. “Let me say goodbye to my family.”

- IV. What is going on here?
 - A. Is Jesus coming out against funerals? families? manners? sleeping indoors?
 - B. The sense is one of *hurry* and *focus*.
 - C. His face is firm, and he wants his followers’ faces to be firm, as they chase down the kingdom – *the kingdom that he preaches is on the other side of the cross.*

- V. Focus. Don’t turn back.
 - A. Jesus tells us not to prioritize otherwise good things:
 - B. What distracts you from single-minded pursuit of the kingdom?
 - C. Are you hedging your bets?
 - D. Following Jesus single-mindedly will transform these relationships. How do we think about our houses, our children, our parents?

- VI. Set your face
 - A. Single-mindedly pursuing the kingdom takes guts
 - B. All, not most, of the relationships of life are ways of pursuing the kingdom
 - i. *Covenant of Communicant Membership*, Q6a: “Do you purpose to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness in all the relationships of life ... ?”
 - ii. *Covenant of Baptism*, Q5: “Do you promise to lead him/her, by your example and parental discipline exercised in love, to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness in all the relationships of life?”
 - C. Some lose sight of the kingdom
 - D. The way to the kingdom is through the cross
 - E. We need the Lord to make us firm. (Revelation 3:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 3:1-3; James 5:8; 2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:3)