

"Journey to the Cross"

Turning Point

Luke 9:51-57 (NIV) - *As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.* ⁵² *And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him;* ⁵³ *but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem.* ⁵⁴ *When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?"* ⁵⁵ *But Jesus turned and rebuked them.* ⁵⁶ *Then he and his disciples went to another village.* ⁵⁷ *As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."*

The School of Hard Knocks

1. We must avoid the danger of competition and **SELF-PROMOTION** (v. 46-48).
*True greatness is achieved through **HUMILITY**.*
2. We must avoid the danger of **SECTARIANISM** (v. 49-50).
*God uses **MANY** people to accomplish his work and not all of them are part of our group.*
3. We must avoid the danger of **ANIMOSITY** (v. 51-56).
*Unbelievers are to be viewed as objects of **COMPASSION** - not enemies.*
4. We must avoid the danger of **CHEAP GRACE** (v. 57-62).
*We need to count the **COST** before deciding to follow Jesus.*
 - a. We must be willing to give up momentary **COMFORT** and embrace a pilgrim mentality (57-58).
 - b. We must be willing to lay aside **HIGHER** allegiances (v. 59-60).
 - c. We must be willing to give up **COMPETING** interests (v. 61-62).

Looking Beyond

- Jesus looked beyond the cross to the **EXODUS** that was going to be fulfilled in Jerusalem (Lk. 9:30).
- Jesus looked beyond the cross understanding that there in Jerusalem he would be "**TAKEN UP**" (Lk. 9:51).
- Hebrews 12:1-2 (ESV) - *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him*

endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Forest Hills Baptist Church ~ 3900 East Fulton ~ Grand Rapids, MI 49546
Phone 616.949.0540 ~ Fax 616.949.7870 ~ www.fhbcgr.org