

# Home group / study notes w/b 4<sup>th</sup> September 2016

## *The journey and cost of discipleship*

*Feel free to use as much or as little as you wish. Don't rush the discussions in order to 'finish' the study, and make sure you allow time for the prayer.*

**Read** Luke 9:49-62 We have had two Sundays devoted to the cost of discipleship: this reading was used at the end of June 2016. What do you make of verse 50? This is someone not from the 'in group' of close disciples. To whom might similar circumstances apply today?

**Compare with** Luke 11:23. How can you reconcile the two sayings of Jesus? Notice the difference in the *person* between the two sayings 'against you' / 'against me'. If 11:23 is true (as we believe), then what does it say about the person using the name of Jesus in 9:50?

*You might like to think of 9:50 as referring to the church, while 11:23 refers to Jesus Christ. How should we relate to other churches, especially those with whose doctrines we may disagree in certain areas?*

**Luke 9:51** marks a hinge point in St Luke's Gospel. The rest of his book is set around the journey towards Jerusalem. It is more than a physical journey. What kinds of opposition are to be encountered (9:51-62)? How should they be dealt with?

NB journey towards an end ('resolutely', verse 51), but a journey where much of the best is yet to come: the best known parables (eg 10:25ff, chapter 15); the joy of the disciples after they return from being sent out (10:17); the giving of the Lord's prayer (11:1-4); not to worry, but to be ready (12:22-40); lives changed (19:1-10) and loves challenged (18:9-30). [*Don't try to read all these or you'll run out of time!*]

**Ponder:** How can you see the rest of your life as a journey with much of the best yet to come? Is the future daunting? Frightening? Exciting? Will you trust, or make excuses? Will you stick to a plan you can see as securely as possible, or step out confidently without knowing detail, but sure of the destination?

How will you / do you deal with the opposition which *will* come? Jesus had already told his disciples twice that he would suffer and die (9:22, 44). He stressed the costs involved (9:57-58 you have already read; also 14:25-27, used last Sunday). Are you *hearing* this, or does it still surprise you when the path is not straightforward? The disciples couldn't take it in... but we are the other side of Easter and Pentecost.

*Final thought and pointer for prayer: neutrality is impossible. You either commit wholeheartedly, or you remain uncommitted. If the latter, then Jesus will continue to offer you the invitation while there is time, but then he will go on his journey - with or without you.*

*People reject for all kinds of reasons – alien to normal way of life (9:53); prefer to go back to the illusory security of home, family undisturbed (9:59-62). **Pray** for them and yourselves.*