

**30 June 2013** – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost.

**Readings:** 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19–21; Gal. 5:1, 13–25; Luke 9:51–62.

**Theme:** *Fit for service* – Luke 9:62, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is **fit for service** in the kingdom of God.”



**INTRO:** What a bunch of misfits! Ineffective (Luke 9:40, “I begged your disciples to drive it out, but they could not.”); Unbelieving and perverse (Luke 9:41, “You unbelieving and perverse generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you and put up with you?”); ignorant & fearful (Luke 9:45, “But they did not understand what this meant. It was hidden from them, so that they did not grasp it, and they were afraid to ask him about it.”); argumentative and pride-fully ambitious (Luke 9:46, “An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest.”); ungracious, unforgiving, even destructive (Luke 9:54, “When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, “Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?””).



**A SPIRITUAL CHECK-UP. Luke 9:54-56 (NASB),** “He turned and rebuked them, [and said, “**You do not know what kind of spirit you are of**; for the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them.”] And they went on to another village.”



**2 Corinthians 13:5,** “**Examine yourselves** to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you —unless, of course, you fail the test?”

**William Barclay:** “When his nephew, Samuel, the son of his brother Charles, entered the Roman Catholic Church, John Wesley wrote him,

‘Whether in this Church or that I care not. You may be saved in either or damned in either; but I fear you are not born again.’”



## I. PAY THE PRICE.

**Luke 9:57-58**, “As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”

**Rick Joyner**, *The Path of Life*, “True Christianity is **the greatest adventure** that can be had on this earth, and it is the most fulfilling life we could ever have, but it is also **the most difficult.**”



**2013 Vinnies (St Vincent DePaul Society) CEO Sleepout Thursday 20 June**

**There are more than 100,000 Australians who find themselves homeless each night of the year. Just under half of these are women; a quarter are under the age of 18. The discomfort of sleeping on the streets is a fragment of the larger reality we hope to impart upon influential leaders of the community as part of the Vinnies CEO Sleepout. With their help, and yours, we can fight the issue of homelessness together.**



**Our mission is dignity.** Swags for Homeless is a not-for-profit charity working to provide emergency relief Backpack Beds to every homeless person turned away from shelter.

“[blank] and I would be prepared to give up a night's sleep each, on a rostered (not too frequent!) basis to provide congregational liaison, if others were **prepared** to step in as well.”



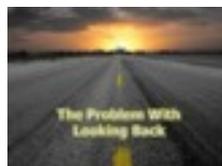
## II. PUT THE KINGDOM FIRST.

**Rick Joyner**, “The Gospels give us a definition of discipleship. The main focus of true disciples is to learn from their Master. The most basic goal of every Christian should be to become like Him and to do His will. True disciples will make all major decisions around the interests of the kingdom, not their own desires.”

**Matthew 6:33**, “Seek **first** his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

**Luke 9:59-60**, “He said to another man, “Follow me.” But he replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”

To bury one’s father seems like a reasonable request, unless/until it gets in the way of doing **FIRST** what Jesus has called us to do.



## III. PLOUGH AHEAD!

**Luke 9:51**, “As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus **resolutely** set out for Jerusalem.”

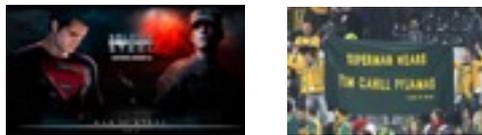
**Luke 9:61-62**, “Still another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.” Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

**1 Corinthians 7:32-35**, “I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is **concerned about the Lord’s affairs—how he can please the Lord**. But a married man is concerned about the affairs of

this world—how he can please his wife—and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is **concerned about the Lord’s affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit.** But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world—how she can please her husband. I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in **undivided devotion to the Lord.**”



The **Socceroos** have qualified for the 2014 World Cup with a **1-0** victory over Iraq, with substitute Josh Kennedy’s 83rd minute header sealing Australia’s ticket to Brazil.



“Superman Henry Cavill takes his shirt off for a **workout recruitment video** made for a partnership between the National Guard and ‘Man of Steel.’”

**Hebrews 12:1-2**, “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, **fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”



**CONCLUSION: Luke 10:1**, “After this the Lord appointed **seventy-two others** and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.” Ultimately we are pointing to Him!