

## **On the Way to Jerusalem**

Luke 9:51-62

by Don Falkos

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When the time was approaching for Jesus to ascend into heaven, he resolved to go to Jerusalem. He sent some of his disciples on ahead. They went into a Samaritan village to make preparations. But the people there refused to welcome Jesus because he was going to Jerusalem. James and John became indignant, "Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to destroy these people?"

Jesus waved aside their suggestion, "Of course not! You don't have any idea what I stand for, do you? The Son of Man did not come to destroy people's lives, but to save them from eternal death."

They traveled on to another village.

As Jesus and his disciples continued their journey through Samaria on their way to Jerusalem, a man approached Jesus and said, "I'm going to follow you wherever you go."

Jesus replied, "Really? Then you'll have to be prepared to rough it. Even foxes and birds have homes, but the Son of Man has no place to call his own."

Jesus said to another man, "Follow me. Become my disciple."

The man hesitated, "Let me wait until after the anniversary of my father's death, so I might fulfill my obligation to collect his bones into an ossuary."

But Jesus replied, "Let those who are spiritually dead see to the remains of those who are physically dead. You, who are spiritually alive, need to be out proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom of God."

Another man responded to the call of Jesus by saying, "I'll follow you, Lord. But first let me go and say goodbye to my family."

Jesus told him, "Don't procrastinate. Anyone who begins the work of God and then looks back to the concerns of this world is useless for the Kingdom of God."