



LET THE DEAD BURY THE DEAD

APRIL 28, 2025

LUKE 9:59-60 NKJV – (59) Then He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” **(60)** Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.”

Who are “the dead” whom Jesus referred to as being the ones to bury their own dead? The word *dead* is used in this passage in two different senses. It is apparently an inconsistency and is used very effectively. The Jews used the word *dead* often to express indifference toward a thing or to express that something has no influence over us. For example, to be dead to the law (**Romans 7:4**), to be dead to sin (**Romans 6:11**), means that the law and sin have no influence or control over us. We are free from them and act as though they are not.

So **people of the world** are dead to Christ. They do not see His beauty, nor do they hear His voice or desire to follow Him. Only His “sheep” will do those things (**John 10:27**). The people of the world are those whom the Savior describes here as the (**spiritually**) dead who should bury the (**physically**) dead. Let people, He says, who are not interested in My work, and who are “dead in sin” (**Ephesians 2:1**), take care of the dead. Your duty is now to follow Me.

While Scripture, and Jesus, are clear that we are to honor our parents (**Ephesians 6:2**), we have to understand that Jesus is to come first, and this would have been especially so in this instance, that is, with a direct command from the Lord. Peter, Andrew, James, John, and Matthew recognized the Lord and followed Him at once (**Matthew 4:18–22; 9:9**). The thing to which the man who wanted to bury his father was called was of more importance than any earthly consideration, and, for that time, Christ chose to require of the man a very extraordinary sacrifice to show his sincere attachment to Him.

As regards the people of the world, nothing is more important than responding to the gospel. This requires that the gospel be preached (**Romans 10:14**), so once we make the decision to follow Jesus and preach His good news, we must deny dead, worldly pursuits and comforts, and do the Lord’s work. **Jesus wants followers, not professors**, and those who are spiritually alive will be instruments in the Lord’s hands to call others to new life in Christ.

SCRIPTURE READING

MATTHEW 19:29

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Life is for the living. Death is for the dead. Let life be like music. And death a note unsaid.