

Sermon Discussion Questions | March 13, 2016 Luke 9:51-62 | “Jesus Is Courageous”

1. What is significant about the phrase, *he set his face to go to Jerusalem (vs. 51,53)*?
2. Read *Mark 10:32-34*. Did Jesus know what awaited him in Jerusalem?
3. In what does Jesus show his courage in our sermon text today?
4. Share an example of an “unwanted destination” in your own life. Why are you hesitant to “go there”? What holds you back?
5. Consider *Luke 9:23-25*. If we are to make our life’s destination to *follow Jesus*, what will it cost us to do so? What are two or three major barriers or obstacles that you face that make that destination so difficult?
6. Read *Hebrews 12:1-2*. Discuss the statement: “My unwanted destination is not my final destination.” What difference does having this perspective make?
7. Do you agree with the statement: “a primary barrier in radically following Jesus is our fear.” Can you give an example from your own life? How are faith and fear often opposites of each other?
8. Ponder the following Scriptures that speak about the power of fear: *Gen. 3:10; Prov. 29:25; I Sam. 17:24; Neh. 4:14; Mk. 4:40; Matt. 25:25*.
9. Consider how the Lord needed to challenge many godly people in Scripture to not be afraid: *Gen. 46:3; Josh. 11:6; II Kings 1:5; Luke 1:13; 1:30; 5:10; Acts 18:9*. If such godly leaders needed admonished in this way, what does that say about us?
10. What does it mean to *put your hand to the plow and not look back (vs. 62)*? What is the definition of “conditional obedience” in today’s sermon?
11. What is one of the greatest obstacles to “unconditional obedience”?
12. Are there any “congregational fears” at Central and, if so, what are they and how do they impact our life and ministry as a church?
13. How does the power of the gospel collide with the power of our fears? Which prevails, and why?
14. Consider building into your daily life and routine a simple prayer that asks: *Lord, on this day and in every circumstance, may I be led by faith and not by fear – for your glory.*