

# The Consequences of Following Jesus

When Jesus said “**Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head**” (Matthew 8:20; Luke 9:58), He was likely **evoking Old Testament imagery**, especially themes related to **homelessness, rejection, and prophetic identity**. Let’s explore possible Old Testament connections:

## **Verse: Matthew 8:20 / Luke 9:58**

*“Foxes have dens and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”*

## **Possible Old Testament References or Echoes**

### **1. Prophetic Homelessness (Jeremiah, Elijah)**

- **Jeremiah** was forbidden to marry, mourn, feast, or even build a house (Jeremiah 16:1–5), as a sign of **God’s coming judgment**.
- **Elijah** lived much of his life as a wanderer, staying with a widow or alone in the wilderness (1 Kings 17).
- Like them, Jesus is portraying Himself as a **rejected prophet, without comfort or resting place**—a frequent motif in prophetic tradition.

👉 **Connection:** Jesus embodies the prophetic lifestyle—**rejected, mobile, dependent on God**.

### **2. Psalm 84:3 – Birds at Home in God's House**

*“Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young—at your altars, O Lord of hosts...”*

- The **birds find refuge at God’s altar**—symbolizing God’s presence as a place of peace and rest.
- Ironically, Jesus—**God in flesh**—has **no such resting place**, highlighting the **tragic rejection** of the Son.

👉 **Connection:** Even birds find a home in God’s house, but **the Son is refused hospitality** by humanity.

### **3. Daniel 7:13 – “Son of Man”**

- Jesus calls Himself “**Son of Man**,” a title rooted in **Daniel 7**, where the Son of Man receives authority and dominion.
- Yet here, this majestic figure has **no earthly place to rest**, contrasting **heavenly authority** with **earthly rejection**.

👉 **Connection:** The majestic **Son of Man** walks the earth in **utter humility and rejection**.

### **4. Wilderness Wandering Theme**

- Like **Israel in the wilderness**, Jesus lives as a wanderer with **no fixed home**.
- Deuteronomy 8:3–4 recalls God’s provision during Israel’s homelessness—a **dependence Jesus now lives out**.

👉 **Connection:** Jesus is the new Israel, reliving the **exile and dependence** of God’s people.

## **Theological Message:**

Jesus is saying: “Even animals have homes, but **I**, the Messiah and Son of Man, am **rejected, homeless, and unwelcomed** in the very world I came to save.”

This reinforces the **cost of discipleship**, which is the immediate context of this statement.

# The Consequences of Following Jesus

In **Luke 9:59–62**, Jesus encounters three would-be disciples and gives startling responses to each. His point is direct and uncompromising: **following Him requires total commitment without delay, distraction, or divided loyalties.**

## Luke 9:59–62 – Text and Meaning

### ♦ 1. “Let me first go and bury my father.” (v.59)

*“Follow me,” Jesus told him. But he replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” Jesus said, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”*

**What it means:**

- This likely doesn’t mean the man’s father had just died—he’s probably referring to **waiting until his father dies someday.**
- Jesus is saying: **The kingdom takes priority over even the most sacred familial duty.**
- “Let the dead bury their own dead” likely means: **Let the spiritually dead handle worldly affairs,** while you pursue eternal things.

👉 **Point:** There can be no postponement in responding to Jesus’ call.

### ♦ 2. “Let me first say goodbye to those at home.” (v.61)





*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 plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”*

**What it means:**

- Sounds reasonable, but Jesus sees a heart that’s **divided**—like Lot’s wife looking back at Sodom.
- “Hand to the plow” is a farming metaphor: if you look back, you’ll veer off course.
- He’s calling for **undivided focus and loyalty.**

👉 **Point:** You can’t follow Jesus with a backward glance or a half-heart.

## Overall Point of Luke 9:59–62

Theme	Teaching
 <b>Urgency</b>	The call to follow Jesus is <b>now</b> —not later.
 <b>Focus</b>	Discipleship demands <b>single-minded commitment.</b>
 <b>Priority</b>	Jesus must come <b>before family, comfort, and tradition.</b>
 <b>Excuses</b>	Even culturally respectable reasons can become spiritual <b>obstacles.</b>

Jesus is **not discouraging compassion or disrespecting family.** Instead, He’s drawing a line: **Nothing—no delay, no distraction, no obligation—can come before loyalty to Him.**

## Old Testament Echo

- **Elijah and Elisha** (1 Kings 19:19–21):
  - Elisha asked to say goodbye to his family before following Elijah. Elijah allowed it.
  - **Jesus exceeds Elijah**—He demands even more immediate and radical allegiance.

## Summary

Jesus is making this point:

**Following Him isn’t a part-time commitment—it requires full surrender, immediate response, and an undivided heart.**