Avon Grove Church OF THE NAZARENE

"Living out the mission of Jesus – together."

Sermon Discussion Guide
10/04/2026

Sermon: Clear the Way *"Lord, Here I am"*
Text: *Luke 9:57-62*

🌿 **Introduction:** The issue is not simply whether we are busy. The deeper question is: **What keeps getting placed before Jesus?** As we prepare for revival, the conversation is about moving from awareness to availability: **"Lord, here I am."**

1. **Opening: What Does "Busy" Hide?-** Challenge the idea that busyness is simply a matter of having too much on the calendar. Sometimes busyness can become a way of postponing something God is asking of us.

   Why do you think "I'm too busy" can be such an easy explanation for putting something off?

   What is the difference between genuinely being busy and using busyness to avoid something?

   What are some things people commonly postpone because "this just isn't the right season"?

2. **"But First..." -** Each person in Luke 9 expresses some willingness to follow Jesus, but something else gets placed before obedience.

   Why can delay be more dangerous than an outright "no"?

   What makes "not yet" feel more comfortable than saying "no"?

   Consider these examples:

   "I'll deal with that eventually."
   "I'll make more time for God when things settle down."
   "I'll take that step when the timing is better."

   Which kinds of "not yet" are most tempting for people in our culture?

   Is there something God has been bringing to your attention that you've repeatedly told yourself you will deal with later?

3. **Luke 9:62: The Divided Life** - Read **Luke 9:62** again: *"No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."*

   What do you think Jesus is getting at with the picture of putting your hand to the plow and looking back?

   What might "looking back" look like in a Christian's life today?

What are some things that can compete with our full allegiance to Jesus without being sinful in themselves?

How can we tell whether something important has become something that consistently comes before Jesus?

4. **From "Someday" to "Today" -** Discipleship is about responding to God **today**, not waiting indefinitely for the perfect circumstances. "Someday is not a plan."

   What makes us believe there will eventually be a better time to obey God?

   Why do we sometimes wait for a dramatic moment when God may simply be asking for the next small step?

   Consider: **What is my next step?**

   What would it look like to actually take that step this week?

5. **As Individuals and as a Church -** Bringing the four stones together:
   Brokenness: What am I carrying?
   Foolishness: What am I controlling?
   Faithlessness: What have I stopped believing God can do?
   Busyness: What keeps getting placed before Jesus?

   The same invitation runs through all four: **"Follow me."**

   As we prepare for revival, don't think only about what you want God to do in the church.
   Ask: **What would it look like for me to be genuinely available to God?**

   What would it look like for our church to become a church that responds when Jesus says, "Follow me"?

   What might change in the way we pray, serve, invite, disciple, or respond to God's prompting?

🩵 **Close in prayer: "Lord, here I am."**