

No Excuses, The Offer Still Stands

Luke 9:23 (NIV 1984)

Then he (Jesus) said to them all: “If **anyone** would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

When making the invitation to potential followers, Jesus invites “Anyone.”

1) Anyone Is Welcome

Jesus was a **rabbi**. Jesus was homeless, unconventional, but a **rabbi** nonetheless. A rabbi was a teacher of God’s Word, which was then the Old Testament. Rabbis had extensive knowledge of the **Torah** (the first five books of the Bible) and all of the writings of the prophets. Rabbis were special because they had a group of **talmid** (pronounced tal-meed). The word **talmid** translates to “**disciple**” or “**student**.”

2) Anyone Means Everyone

Luke 9:23 (NIV 1984)

Then he (Jesus) said to them all: “If **anyone** would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

3) No Qualifications Means No Excuses

Luke 9:57-58 (NIV 1984)

As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.”

⁵⁸ Jesus replied, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”

Luke 9:59-60 (NIV 1984)

He said to another man, "Follow me."

But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

Luke 9:61-62 (NIV 1984)

Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family."

⁶² Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

So what is it for you?

Is it because you're too busy with putting in hours at the office?

Is it because you've really been focusing on your marriage lately?

Is it because the kids need a lot of time and attention?

Is it because times have been tough and you just got a second job?

It's my PAST!!

Baggage? **ANYONE**

Emotional damage? **ANYONE**

My tragedy? **ANYONE**

Sexual past? **ANYONE**

Ex-con? **ANYONE**

Inmate? **ANYONE**

Divorced? **ANYONE**

Legalist? **ANYONE**

Alcoholic? **ANYONE**

Pot head? **ANYONE**

Addict? **ANYONE**

Hypocrite? **ANYONE**

4) It's Anyone, But It's **Everything**

He makes his invitation to anyone, He also guarantees that it will cost you **everything.**

Are you **ready?**

Are you willing to follow **the rabbi Jesus?**