



sermon notes

Sunday 30th November 2025

Ps Dave

Grave Tending or Kingdom Living

Song line – *"I wasn't made to be tending a grave..."*

Yet that is what many people end up doing—to one degree or another.

The call of Jesus — the message of the Kingdom — is to pull people out of a grave-tending life and **into a new way of living**.

A new way of living requires a new way of thinking

Scripture

Scripture tells of people who wanted change... even called to be part of Jesus' ministry... but were **more committed to things that were dead or dying**.

Two records in scripture

Luke 9.59

Matthew 8:18-22 TPT

[18] At the sight of large crowds gathering around him, Jesus gave orders to his disciples to get ready to sail back over to the other side of the lake. [19] Just then, a religious scholar approached him and said, “Teacher, I’ll follow you wherever you go!” [20] Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens, birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no true home in this world.”

[21] Then another man spoke up and said, “Lord, I’ll follow you, but first I must take care of my aged father and bury him when he dies.”

[22] But Jesus said to him, “Now is the time to follow me, and let those who are dead bury their own dead.”

Lk 9.

[59] Jesus then turned to another and said, “Come be my disciple.” He replied, “Someday I will, Lord, but allow me first to fulfill my duty as a good son and wait until my father passes away.”

[60] Jesus told him, “Don’t wait for your father’s burial. Let those who are already dead wait for death. As for you, go and proclaim everywhere that God’s kingdom has arrived.”

This is the context of one of the most misunderstood yet strong statements Jesus made:

“Let the dead bury the dead.”

Cultural Meaning of “Bury My Father”

The man wasn’t saying, “My father has just died; may I attend the funeral?”

In Jewish culture, the phrase “bury my father” meant:

“Let me stay home and fulfil family obligations until my father eventually dies.”

It could mean years — **and included waiting for inheritance \$\$.**

This man was essentially saying:

“I want to follow You... later.”

Jesus’ Call

- Luke 9:59 — Jesus says, “Follow Me.” Join your life to mine...be with me & learn my ways”
- The man replies, “Lord, **let me first** go and bury my father.”

This line is not harsh. It is surgical.

It exposes the difference in life priorities

- Responding to God’s call
- Using obligations to avoid obedience

In first-century Jewish culture, burying one’s parents was considered one of the most sacred duties of honouring father and mother.

Jesus is confronting a deeply held cultural norm.

Two Meanings of “Dead”:

1. Spiritually dead — those absorbed in temporary routines
2. Physically dead — the deceased

Jesus’ point:

“Let the spiritually dead be involved with matters that are decaying”

You — spiritually alive — must follow Me, now

He’s drawing a line of destiny & calling the man up to a greater life!

What “Tending a Grave” Means Spiritually

“Tending a grave” is a vivid spiritual metaphor It describes how we sometimes maintain, protect, or stay attached to things that are actually dead or dying in our lives—that which produces no real value or true spiritual life

Things don’t carry life or divine breath.

To tend a grave is to care for something God intends to raise us up from.

Matt 6.33 Jesus - don’t worry about the innate things of life but seek first the Kingdom & His Righteousness

Many people cling to a version of themselves that God is trying to raise into something new

Investing Energy in What does not Produce Life

If your emotional, mental, or spiritual energy is going toward maintaining what is dead, instead of cultivating what is alive, you will end up exhausted and unproductive.

Examples of “Dead Things” We Tend

• Disappointment — maintaining disappointment instead of pursuing destiny. • Perpetual grief — grief is godly, but endless grief becomes paralysis. • Offense — the offended life is the unresurrected life....**Offended people**

- Sports
- Dying jobs
- Innate object - toys

Why We Tend Graves: Avoiding Resurrection

Sometimes we tend graves because resurrection is disruptive.

If God resurrects something, then:

We must redefine ourselves

We must let go of victimhood

We must move forward Resurrection is powerful — but unpredictable.

The Kingdom Principle

Delayed obedience is disobedience in slow motion.

This man’s reasoning sounded noble:

“I need to honour my father.”

But Jesus saw deeper:

“You’re using family expectations to postpone calling.”

“That level of thinking will keep you in that level of living.” “You cannot solve a problem at the same level of consciousness that created it.”

He was honouring tradition more than revelation.

Whoever or whatever you honour most becomes your decision-maker.

And your decisions ultimately shape your future.

Right here — the man was honouring family culture above Kingdom calling.

The Full Meaning of Jesus’ Statement

“Let those who are spiritually dull concern themselves with temporary tasks like burying the physically dead; but you, who are spiritually alive, focus on the urgent, eternal mission of the Kingdom.”

When Jesus said, “Let the dead bury their own dead,” He was saying:

“Stop letting people with no kingdom vision determine your spiritual direction.”

Those who do not see what God is doing will always demand you stay where they are

Application

Many destinies die in the waiting room of “after I sort this out...”

After sports season. After family obligations. After I see if I get called up for the next season... (so I can bring glory to Your Name).

But Jesus still calls:

“Follow Me now.”

Not later. Not when life settles. Not once the dead things are done with you.

Follow now — because you were not made to tend graves. You were made to walk in resurrection life.