

## June 26, 2016 “Making our Vision, Reality” based on Luke 9:51-62

Introduction: Story of John Calvin, whose motto was “promptly and sincerely” with the emblem of a hand holding out a heart to God, symbolic of his commitment to God’s call.

Jesus moved from obscurity to prominence, but that led to a narrower focus, and a call to greater commitment.

- Opposition developed, Caesar’s power became stronger as ‘he set his face toward Jerusalem.
- Why should he take the risky path of going to the source of power?
  1. He recognized his mission. Farnsworth story of plowing fields and understanding of principles of dividing screen into rows of light and darkness. His vision became reality in television. Jesus knew where he was going, resisted gods of popularity, power, and easy faith.
  2. He knew that God was with him. Just like believers before him – Daniel in the lion’s den, Moses at the sea with Pharaoh in hot pursuit, and David against Goliath – Jesus had faith.

Jesus responded to those who followed. Warned them of the perils that followed – loss of home, family, and idyllic future. This reading is about commitment – Jesus setting his face, and the 3 men turning their heads.

- Our futures are often like that, we are called to make choices, many are hard and go against our natural inclinations.
- We have to build and grow our faith, so that we can go in the direction that God’s calls us.
- Music has a way of deepening our faith. We’re grateful to our choir and music ministry in terms of inspiring us, and modeling a commitment to ‘preaching the word through their singing.’

Thank you, dear choir members, for your work and ministry, and we thank God for leading us in the right directions!