

FOLLOW ME

MATTHEW 4:19

Text: Matthew 4:19

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¹⁹ And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

Introduction:

In seeking to understand this command I want to ask and answer five questions.

What Does It Mean to Follow Jesus

“Follow me” is not the invitation to be saved; it is the call to service.

It is no small decision to follow Jesus.

During the earthly ministry of the Lord there were different crowds that followed Him. Some followed because of the:

- Miracles

Matthew 4:24

²⁴ And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those

which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

- Material

John 6:26

²⁶ Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.

But one must remember that there is a cost involved in following the Lord.

There is a need to understand:

1. THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS

A. Determine the Cost

Luke 14:25-33

²⁵ And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, ²⁶ If any *man* come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have *sufficient* to finish *it*? ²⁹ Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish *it*, all that behold *it* begin to mock him, ³⁰ Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. ³¹ Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? ³² Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an

ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. ³³ So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

B. Die to Self

Matthew 16:24-25

²⁴ Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵ For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

C. Determine Our Priorities

John 6:66

⁶⁶ From that *time* many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

2 Timothy 4:10

¹⁰ For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

2. THE COMMITMENT OF FOLLOWING JESUS

Matthew 19:21

²¹ Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go *and* sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come *and* follow me.

True commitment can only be entered into when there is a willingness to pay the price required.

A. Commitment Is Relative to Desire

1 Corinthians 13:5

⁵ Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

Mark 9:35

³⁵ And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, *the same* shall be last of all, and servant of all.

B. Commitment Requires Direction

3. THE CONSEQUENCE OF FOLLOWING JESUS

Following Jesus brings results, but not always instantaneously.

A. The Process - Follow

Matthew 4:19

¹⁹ And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

B. The Promise – Fishers of Men

Note:

Mark 10:28-31

²⁸ Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. ²⁹ And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my

sake, and the gospel's, ³⁰ But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life. ³¹ But many *that are* first shall be last; and the last first.

Matthew 19:27-20:16

²⁷ Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? ²⁸ And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life. ³⁰ But many *that are* first shall be last; and the last *shall be* first. ¹ For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man *that is* an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard. ² And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way. ⁵ Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise. ⁶ And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle? ⁷ They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, *that* shall ye receive. ⁸ So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them *their* hire, beginning from the last unto the first. ⁹ And when they came that *were hired* about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny. ¹⁰ But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny. ¹¹ And when they had received *it*, they murmured against the goodman of the house, ¹² Saying, These last have wrought *but*

one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day. ¹³ But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny? ¹⁴ Take *that* thine *is*, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee. ¹⁵ Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good? ¹⁶ So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.

The Lord had been talking to the rich young ruler about salvation, while the disciples were looking on.

They saw him go away, and Peter ask; “What shall we have?”

Two things that we should remember:

- Looking at others will always be harmful
 1. Those hired first were paid last.
 - a. They watched what those in front of them were paid.
 - b. They began to murmur and complain.
 2. We need to realize that everyone does not have the same opportunity.
 - a. Opportunity brings responsibility.

b. Ability brings accountability.

c. It's not equal giving, but equal sacrifice.

- The Lord is Trustworthy (Matthew 20:12-16)

Close:

Are you following Him?

Have you counted the cost?

Are you committed to following Him