

FOLLOWING JESUS

(Mat 4:18 KJV) And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

(Mat 4:19 KJV) And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. (Mat 4:20 KJV) And they straightway left their nets, and followed him. (Mat 4:21 KJV) And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. (Mat 4:22 KJV) And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.

1. JESUS' CALL.

1. *Call of Peter and Andrew.*

1. Follow me--I'll make you fishers of men. Something more important than occupation.
2. Straightway they left their nets and followed him.

2. *Call of Matthew.* (Mat 9:9 KJV) And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him.

3. *Call of Philip.* (John 1:43 KJV) The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.

1. Philip was of Bethsaida, the same city as Peter and Andrew.
2. Some cities are blessed!

2. WHAT WAS IT ABOUT JESUS THAT MADE PEOPLE WANT TO FOLLOW HIM?

1. *Some followed him for the miracles.* (John 6:2 KJV) And a great

multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.

2. *Some followed him for loaves and fishes.* (John 6:26 KJV) 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. (John 6:27 KJV) Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.
 1. For what they could get or benefit from.
 2. To satisfy the flesh.
 3. *Some followed through obedience.* There was a desire to serve and please Him.
 4. *Some followed Him because he was their only hope of life.*
 1. Where would we go Lord? You only have the words of life.
 2. (John 6:66 KJV) From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. (John 6:67 KJV) Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? (John 6:68 KJV) Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. (John 6:69 KJV) And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.
3. THE ROAD TO FOLLOWING JESUS MAY NOT ALWAYS BE THE EASIEST ROAD
1. *It is a straight and narrow way--*"Straight is the gate and narrow (tribulation) is the way...that leads to life."
 2. *Through much tribulation must we enter the kingdom of God.*

4. WHAT COST/ WHAT SACRIFICE?
 1. *Paul.*
 1. "I'm not willing to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."
 2. "And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved." (II Cor. 12:15).
 2. *Greater love hath no man...than to give his life for a friend.*
 3. *Take up cross daily and follow Jesus.*

5. PERHAPS PEOPLE ARE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING WORTH DYING FOR.
 1. *Is there not a cause in Israel?* (1 Sam 17:29 KJV) And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?
 2. *People are not looking for a watered-down, compromising, appeasing gospel.*
 3. *The Word of God may be sweet in the mouth, but bitter in the stomach, but it is the power of God unto salvation.*

6. GOD IS LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WHO WILL BE SOLD OUT TO HIM.
 1. *Feast prepared.* (Luke 14:16 KJV) Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: (Luke 14:17 KJV) And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.
 2. *No excuses.*
 1. (Luke 14:18 KJV) And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused.
 2. (Luke 14:19 KJV) And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused.

3. (Luke 14:20 KJV) And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.
 4. (Luke 9:59 KJV) And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. (Luke 9:60 KJV) Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.
 5. (Luke 9:61 KJV) And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.
 6. (Luke 9:62 KJV) And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.
3. *Go bring them in.*
1. (Luke 14:21 KJV) So that servant came, and showed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. (Luke 14:22 KJV) And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.
 2. (Luke 14:23 KJV) And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.
 3. (Luke 14:24 KJV) For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.
4. *Total commitment.*
1. (Luke 14:25 KJV) And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, (Luke 14:26 KJV) 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.

2. (Luke 14:27 KJV) And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

5. *Counting the cost.*

1. (Luke 14:28 KJV) For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?
2. (Luke 14:29 KJV) Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, (Luke 14:30 KJV) Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.
3. (Luke 14:31 KJV) 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? (Luke 14:32 KJV) Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.
4. (Luke 14:33 KJV) So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.