

Series:

Disciple of Jesus Christ-the job description

Message 3:

“Follow Me”

Part 1

Luke 9:23 / John 12:24-26

“Follow Me”

Introduction:

Over the past few weeks we have given consideration to the meaning of Christ’s words to us concerning being His disciple.

Through the Scriptures we have studied the Holy Spirit has revealed to us the job description Jesus provided for all who would seek to be His disciples.

“Follow Me”

Luke 9:23

**23 And He was saying to them all,
“If anyone wishes to come after Me,
he must deny himself,
and take up his cross daily
and follow Me.**

“Follow Me”

We have already explored
the **first two expectations** in detail;

Denial of self
and
taking up our cross daily.

“Follow Me”

We know that these two must take place in order for us to be able to follow Jesus.

**If we, as believers in Jesus,
do not choose to deny self
and take up our cross daily
we will be unable to follow Jesus.**

“Follow Me”

**When we do make the choice
of self-denial **and** we choose
to take up our cross (ministry) daily
then we will be ready to follow the Lord
into supernatural ministry.**

“Follow Me”

**Jesus chose to use the words
“Follow Me”.**

“Follow Me”

John 12:24-26

**24 Truly, truly, I say to you,
unless a grain of wheat
falls into the earth and dies,
it remains alone; but if it dies,
it bears much fruit.**

“Follow Me”

John 12:24-26

**25 He who loves his life loses it,
and he who hates his life in this world
will keep it to life eternal.**

“Follow Me”

John 12:24-26

**26 If anyone serves Me,
he must follow Me;
and where I am,
there My servant will be also;
if anyone serves Me,
the Father will honor him.**

“Follow Me”

These two words “Follow Me” indicate that Jesus is going somewhere. Jesus is moving, on a journey, and He desires us to join Him on this journey. Jesus is inviting you to join Him in His work of building the Kingdom of God.

“Follow Me”

**Jesus has called us to believe in Him.
The purpose of His gift of salvation
was not for us to simply know
we are going to make it into heaven.
It was not given to us so we could simply
gain as much information about God
as we can until we go.**

“Follow Me”

Jesus calls us to worship and to serve.

**He equips us to produce fruit
for His kingdom.**

**When we begin to follow we move into
an experience of fruitfulness for God.
Our following Jesus now is preparation
for the eternal ministry He has for us
in His Kingdom to come.**

“Follow Me”

Question:

**Is it possible for us to choose
the denial of self **and** to choose to
take up our personal cross daily
and yet not follow Jesus?**

“Follow Me”

The answer is YES.

PSALM 100
A Psalm of praise.
Make a joyful noise unto the Lord,
all ye lands: serve the Lord with gladness,
and come before his presence with singing.
Know ye that the Lord he is God,
it is he that hath made us, and we are his people,
and we are the sheep of his pasture.
Enter into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise:
for the Lord is good, his mercy is everlasting;
and his truth endureth to all generations.

PSALM 102
A Psalm of David.
Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let my cry come unto thee.
When I am in trouble, I will call, and thou wilt answer me;
when I am in distress, I will cry aloud, and thou wilt hear me.
My heart is vexed with grief, and my soul is troubled;
and I say, My heart is vexed, and my soul is troubled;
and I say, My heart is vexed, and my soul is troubled;
and I say, My heart is vexed, and my soul is troubled;

“Follow Me”

There is a third step that must be taken.

Once we have denied self and have taken up our cross we must then move as Jesus moves into ministry.

Denial of self and embracing God’s call (cross) puts us in position to follow.

It does not guarantee that we will follow.

“Follow Me”

**What does Jesus mean
by this third step-**

“Follow Me”?

How do we follow?

“Follow Me”

There are **4 essentials** we *need to know*
and *must do* to be disciples.

If we **miss or neglect**
these **4 essentials** we will not go far
in our journey of following Jesus Christ.

“Follow Me”

- 1. We must clearly hear the voice of Jesus**
- 2. We must stay focused on Jesus**
- 3. We must completely trust Jesus**
- 4. We must fully obey Jesus**

**Today our focus will be
on the first essential.**

“Follow Me”

We must clearly hear the voice of Jesus

PSALM 100
A Psalm of praise.
Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands: come before his presence with gladness and singing: enter into his courts with praise, and into his temple with gladness: praise him, ye high places of the Lord: for the Lord our God is holy.

PSALM 102
A Psalm of David.
Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let my cry come unto thee: when I am in trouble, and I call answer me: in the day of my distress, and my grief, hear my voice: for my days are consumed like smoke, and my strength as fire.

PSALM 101
A Psalm of David.
I will believe myself upright, and my ways will be straight: I will not have a guileful tongue, nor will I be a hypocrite: I will not have a secret sin against me, nor will I have a contentious heart: I will not have a contentious heart, nor will I have a contentious heart.

PSALM 103
A Psalm of David.
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name: O Lord, my Lord, how long have I been silent: how long have I been dumb, and my mouth as it were closed: my heart is as a harp without strings, and my voice as a pipe without wind.

“Follow Me”

This would seem obvious yet we need to give it careful consideration.

A believer cannot follow Jesus if the believer is not confident that he or she is hearing Jesus instructions clearly.

“Follow Me”

**Being confident that you are hearing
the voice of God is a vital key
to be able to follow.**

**If we hesitate or have doubts in this area
we can miss the ministry opportunity
even though we prepared
in the first two steps.(Deny /Cross)**

“Follow Me”

**Jesus said in John 10: 1-5; 14
that His sheep (followers) know Him
and know His voice enabling them
to follow Him.**

“Follow Me”

John 10:1-5; 14

**1 “Truly, truly, I say to you,
he who does not enter by the door into
the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some
other way, he is a thief and a robber.**

“Follow Me”

John 10:1-5; 14

2 But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep.

“Follow Me”

John 10:1-5; 14

**3 To him the doorkeeper opens,
and the sheep hear his voice,
and he calls his own sheep by name
and leads them out.**

“Follow Me”

John 10:1-5; 14

- 4 **When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.**

“Follow Me”

John 10:1-5; 14

5 A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.”

“Follow Me”

John 10:1-5; 14

**14 I am the good shepherd,
and I know My own
and My own know Me,**

“Follow Me”

**The primary key to knowing
the voice of Jesus is abiding in
the Word of God.**

(Abide = time, obedience, evaluation)

“Follow Me”

In **John 8:31-32 Jesus told us
that abiding in His Word
will set us free.**

“Follow Me”

John 8:31-32

**31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him,
“If you continue in My word,
then you are truly disciples of Mine;**

“Follow Me”

John 8:31-32

**32 and you will know the truth,
and the truth will make you free.”**

“Follow Me”

Although this freedom has many possible specific applications its primary general meaning is that we can live our lives in the freedom of knowing with confidence that it is Jesus who is speaking to us and leading us.

“Follow Me”

**When we believe we are clearly hearing
God’s voice then we know we are
walking in Jesus authority
and we experience the confidence
of our relationship to follow Him
in obedient faith.**

“Follow Me”

Believers sometimes lack confidence because they choose to invest time into unreliable sources of truth.

“Follow Me”

Many seek counsel from their own ideas, traditions, media, friends, and other “experts” rather than listening to Jesus voice.

“Follow Me”

This could be because they do not have confidence in their ability to hear Jesus voice.

Doubt is a strategy of the devil.

Hearing Jesus voice is a result of investing in the relationship with Jesus.

“Follow Me”

The reason could also be they would rather hear what they desire because they know they do not like what Jesus would say.

This indicates a lack of self-denial and a lack embracing of the cross.

“Follow Me”

We each must believe the truth that Jesus desires to communicate with us in order to enjoy a relationship with us and to provide guidance for us.

We must determine to make the hearing of Jesus voice the top priority of our lives and we must make His voice the final authority of truth for us.

“Follow Me”

God speaks to us in 4 primary ways.

“Follow Me”

First is the Word of God, the Bible.

Second is prayer.

This is God placing His thoughts into our minds and confirming it in our spirit by His Holy Spirit who has come to live in us as we believe.

“Follow Me”

**These first two must be experienced
before God will use
circumstances (3rd way)
and other believers (4th way)
to confirm.**

“Follow Me”

If we look first to circumstances or other believers then we can fall into a trap of trying to force God’s Word and will into our desires.

God does speak through all 4 ways however, what He is saying will always line up with His Word.

“Follow Me”

Jesus wants us to be confident.

If God’s Word indicates a direction and in prayer you believe God is saying something to you then trust Him and begin to move in that direction.

God can mold and direct us best as we are moving in trust.

If we are stuck in fear of making a mistake God has a more difficult time teaching us how to hear with confidence.

“Follow Me”

**You cannot miss God's will
if you will fully follow these three steps**

“Follow Me”

- i. **Truly surrender** the choice to God.
**Be really willing to obey
however God leads**

“Follow Me”

**ii. Make a decision and start obeying
based upon God’s Word
and upon what you believe He is saying**

“Follow Me”

iii. Trust God.

**If you are not going the right way
and you truly surrendered
God will intervene
and make the path clear**

“Follow Me”

**Next week in part 2 of this message
we will look at the next 3 steps necessary
to follow Jesus
which are:**

We must stay focused on Jesus

We must completely trust Jesus

We must fully obey Jesus

“Follow Me”

Application Thoughts

- 1. How hungry are you to really hear the voice of Jesus?**
- 2. How confidently do you hear Jesus voice?**

“Follow Me”

Application Thoughts

3. Where do you go for counsel?

4. What source of truth serves as your final authority for life?

“Follow Me”

Application Thoughts

5. The key is our relationship with Jesus.

**a. Do you have one? Available by God’s Grace.
We must simply trust in Jesus**

**b. Are you investing in the relationship?
Time in His presence with Word and prayer**

“Follow Me”

Application Thoughts

5. The key is our relationship with Jesus.

c. Have you confirmed that Jesus voice is the authority, the source of truth for you?

d. Are you growing in confidence through surrender and stepping forward in obedient trust

“Follow Me”

Application Thoughts

6. Do not settle for a second hand relationship.

Don't settle for hearing from Jesus only through someone else's relationship.

Jesus loves you and wants to speak to you and guide you.

He has a wonderful plan for you in His Kingdom.

