

Series:

Disciple of Jesus Christ-the job description

Message 3:

“Follow Me”

Part 2

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.***

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

“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. He has called us to believe in Him.

“Follow Me”

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. He calls us to worship and to serve.

“Follow Me”

**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”

Last week we began to look at the 4 essentials that we must know and do in order to complete the step of following Jesus.

Here are the 4 essentials:

- 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**

“Follow Me”

**Last week we gave focus to
the first essential.
Here is a quick review.**

“Follow Me”

1. We must clearly hear
the voice of Jesus

“Follow Me”

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

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

“Follow Me”

b. 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”

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

(Abide = time, obedience, evaluation)

In [John 8:31-32](#) Jesus told us that abiding in His Word will set us free.

“Follow Me”

d. 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”

e. God speaks to us in 4 primary ways.

The **First** and primary way is through 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.

These first two must be experienced before God will use

circumstances (**Third** way) and other believers (**Fourth** way) to confirm.

“Follow Me”

f. 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”

g. 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”

h. You cannot miss God’s will if
.....three steps

“Follow Me”

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

“Follow Me”

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

“Follow Me”

3. Trust God.

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

“Follow Me”

2. We must stay focused on Jesus

“Follow Me”

a. In **Luke 9: 57-62** Jesus encounters several who say they wish to follow Him.

The problem was found in their focus.

Jesus uses these illustrations to say He must be the priority focus.

“Follow Me”

b. **Hebrews 12:2** tells us to
keep our eyes fixed on Jesus

“Follow Me”

c. **To focus on Jesus is to:**

1. **Meditate on His love for us**
2. **Remember His call on our lives
(salvation / service)**
3. **Embrace by faith His presence-
He is always with us**

“Follow Me”

4. Follow His example from Scripture-

as we study how Jesus lived from the Gospels we can pattern our lives after His example.

The instructions from the Apostles in the New Testament also provide God’s desires for how we are to follow Jesus example.

Following Jesus example is possible when we know what He desires and we surrender to the Holy Spirit’s control as we choose to follow in obedient faith.

“Follow Me”

5. Be alert to the opportunities
He places in our path
while on our journey with Him-

this means being spiritually alert to His working in the lives of people we encounter and being alert to open doors for us to share His Gospel and truths from His Word.

“Follow Me”

3. We must completely trust Jesus

“Follow Me”

a. **Jesus will always lead us where faith in Him will be required.**

**One way we know it is Jesus voice is the confirmation of God’s Word.
A second way is that the choice of obedience will require that we grow in our trust in God.**

“Follow Me”

b. Jesus leads us on paths of dependence.

**He will lead us where we must trust Him
for resources, for open doors for ministry,
to change people’s hearts, etc.**

**He will lead us to experiences where he can
work through our lives and God alone
will receive the Glory.**

“Follow Me”

c. This level of trust will require that we let go of our self-sufficiency and our need to be in control

“Follow Me”

4. We must fully obey Jesus

“Follow Me”

a. **Partial obedience**
is not following Jesus.

God’s Word is clear that He gives His favor and strong support to those who stand ready to fully obey without compromise.

“Follow Me”

b. We must be careful to not view God’s support from a world perspective of success.

For example, Stephen was fully obedient and he was stoned to death. His faith, which he demonstrated in his death, was used by God to begin to break the heart of Saul who became Paul.

“Follow Me”

- c. Strong support or favor means to be used supernaturally by God for whatever purpose is best for building the Kingdom of God. Often we cannot see the big picture but we trust God and follow in obedience.**

“Follow Me”

d. Jesus leads us from one crossroad of trust to another. All along the journey we will face new levels of needed trust to continue to follow in obedience. Every time our faith is stretched God draws us closer to Himself in intimacy and God uses us to produce fruit for His kingdom.

“Follow Me”

e. As His followers we cannot simply stop and say let's stay here.

(Peter on the Mt. of transfiguration)

Jesus continues to move and encourages us to follow.

We will either follow or fall back.

Clearly Jesus does lead us, when needed, into seasons of rest but it should only be a season and not a permanent place of dwelling.

“Follow Me”

Application Thoughts

1. How hungry are you to really hear from God?

How confidently do you hear from God?

Where do you go for counsel?

What serves as your final authority for life?

“Follow Me”

Application Thoughts

2. Where is your focus?

Is it on yourself, your circumstances, others, or is it on Jesus?

As Jesus evaluates your following would He describe you as one who hears, stays focused, trusts, and fully obeys His voice?

“Follow Me”

Application Thoughts

**3. Are there any areas of life where
Jesus would say;
“this needs to be surrendered to Me”?**

**Any areas where Jesus is saying;
“stay focused on Me, trust Me,
and obey Me fully”?**

“Follow Me”

Application Thoughts

- 4. The Lord’s Supper is a wonderful opportunity to renew our commitments to truly deny self, take up our cross daily and follow Jesus.**