

# Whom Do You Follow?

## Part Two: Are You Following Jesus?

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### Introduction

1. In the previous lesson we discussed who Jesus is, in order to get a clearer picture of the person that we must be following.
2. Knowing who Jesus is helps us to understand WHY we need to follow Him.
3. Now we must be about learning HOW to follow Him.
  - a. To do this fully one must study the entire New Testament.
  - b. In this lesson, however, we will simply consider the kind of approach we need to have toward following Jesus.

### Discussion

#### I. Be Like Your Master

- A. Matt. 10:24-25: *"It is enough for a disciple to be like his master."*
  1. We follow Jesus by imitating Him (1 Cor. 1:11); and walking as He walked (1 John 2:6).
  2. We also follow Him by having the same mind as He had (Phil. 2:5).
  3. This is what Paul meant when He said, *"...yet not I, but Christ lives in me..."* (Gal. 2:20).
- B. Luke 6:40: *"Everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his master."*
  1. Our goal is to be like Jesus.
  2. We have His teachings and the teachings of the rest of the New Testament to train us.
  3. Let us therefore strive, as His disciples, to be like Him.

#### II. The Characteristics of Jesus:

- A. Love:
  1. Jesus gave His life for us because He and the Father loved us (John 3:16; Rev. 1:5).
  2. Thus, as His disciples, we are commanded to be like Him in love:
    - a. Love for one another (John 13:34).
    - b. Love for Him and for God (1 John 4:19).
- B. Complete and limitless devotion:
  1. Jesus never looked back when He came down from heaven and suffered as He did (Phil. 2:6-8).
  2. While on the earth He always strove to do the will of the Father; He never set aside God's commands for any reason (John 8:29; 5:30; Matt. 4:8-10; 26:48-50).
  3. Thus, we are commanded to be like Him (Matt. 12:50).
- C. Faithfulness:
  1. 2 Tim. 2:13: No matter what we do, Jesus is faithful. But if we want to be with Him we must learn to be faithful as He is.
  2. Matt. 10:37-39: Jesus said, He who loves anyone or anything more than Him *"is not worthy of Me."*
    - a. What He's saying is that His disciples need to show the same level of faithfulness toward Him that He showed toward us when He gave His life (Rev. 2:10, *"till death"*).
    - b. If we want to be worthy of Him, then we must set aside our selfish desires and show the same kind of faithfulness toward the will of the Father that Jesus did.

#### III. The Way, Truth, Life

- A. Way:

1. "The way by which one passes" (Thayer); "Used of a traveler's way...a journey...means of access" (Vine's).
  2. The idea is "coming to the Father"; Jesus is the way by which we do that. But how?
- B. Truth: Jesus leads us to the Father with the truth.
1. He scrapes away the ignorant speculation of the world in order to show us the true nature of God and how we must live before Him.
  2. Through His teaching and His examples we are able to see clearly the kind of lives God wants us to live—lives based on truth.
- C. Life: Jesus provides the way to life (through His death), and He is the source of life.
- D. Why Follow Him?
1. Because He is the only way!
    - a. Jesus not only shows us the way, He IS the way!
    - b. Jesus is the truth because His life is the life we should have lived, but where Jesus was glorified, by sin we fell short of God's glory (Rom. 3:23).
  2. But now He gives us a second opportunity at a life of righteousness and faithfulness to God
  3. Thus, it is said that God prepared beforehand the kinds of works that we should do in Christ (Eph. 1:10)—that is, He determined beforehand that we should live like Christ.
  4. If we claim to follow Jesus, but do not strive to live like Him, then we are saying that Jesus is not worth it to us! (Heb. 10:26-29).

#### IV. Following Jesus Today

- A. Following Jesus is more than an American pastime.
1. We are not talking about a joining a bowling league; we are not talking about joining a soft-ball team.
  2. Following Christ is not a seasonal activity.
  3. There is no such thing as a part-time Christian.
  4. Jesus did not take a vacation from God, and neither can we!
- B. Following Christ is about find the only access we have to the presence of God—to life.
- C. Jesus is the only way, and if we do not follow Him faithfully, then we cannot enter in by that way (Luke 13:24).

#### Conclusion: Whom Do You Follow?

1. Do you follow Jesus, or do you follow...
  - a. Tradition? Col. 2:8; 1 Pet. 1:18
  - b. The crowd? John 12:42
  - c. Convenience? Luke 18:22; Acts 24:24-26
  - d. Physical gain? (I'll serve God as long as He gives me what I want).
  - e. Other men? 1 Cor. 1:11-12; Phil. 2:12.
2. If we follow these other things, then our devotion is only as strong as what we seek (all of these other things will be destroyed).
3. If we follow Jesus, then nothing will get in the way of our serving Him; and nothing can separate us from the Father (Rom. 8:31).
4. Will you follow Jesus?

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