

Follow Jesus!

Follow Paul, as he was a follower of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1, Philippians 3:17)
Follow Jesus that the God of peace might be with you (Philippians 4:8-9)

1 Kings 18:21 – How long halt ye between two opinions?
Exodus 16:28 – How long do ye refuse to obey me?
Numbers 14:11 – How long until they believe me?
Jeremiah 4:14 – How long shall you think of vanity?

We are right at the end, close to the rapture, get a hold of Jesus and start following him now before its too late! Follow Jesus because it's worth it! *It will be WORTH IT ALL WHEN WE SEE JESUS!* (If we could ask the prophets and apostles if it was worth it, they would say it was WORTH IT!)

Some think it is vain to serve the Lord (Malachi 3:13-17) but God writes down everything you do in a book (reference to the judgment seat of Christ)

Following Jesus is for your good

Deuteronomy 5:29 – O that they would fear me and keep my ways!
Deuteronomy 10:12-13 Keeping his commandments is for your good!
Deuteronomy 32:29 – Consider your latter end

“Hey man, it took me long enough to find Jesus, I'm not letting him go, I'm not going back to the world after I have received the knowledge of Jesus Christ my Lord!” You say who is Jesus, why don't you want to let him go? He is my All in all, my Saviour, my Redeemer, my Comforter, my Alpha and Omega, by Life, my Hope, my Anchor to the soul, my Mediator, my Atonement, my Righteousness!!! All the foolishness of the past is not worth going back to for one second. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? (Romans 6:21) Therefore follow Jesus!

Why the Lord chose these men

Mark 1:16-20, 2:14 Peter, Andrew, James, John, and Levi followed Jesus immediately after he spoke once unto them.

Mark 1:16-20

- (16) They had spent their lives casting a net into the sea
The sea is a picture of the world (Daniel 7:2-8, 17; Revelation 13:1, 17:15)
They were trying to make a living from the world by casting their net into the sea.
- (17) Then out of nowhere Jesus shows up and says, “Come ye after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Being fishers of men, that work abides for ever. The Bible says your labor is not in vain in the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58, Hebrews 6:10). *Only one life twill soon be passed, only what's done for Christ will last*
- (18) They had to immediately forsake their nets to follow him. Imagine if they did not, what would of happened? (Luke 9:57-62)

Luke 9:57-62

(9:57-58)

A man that wants to follow Jesus must understand that he is giving up his will for the Lord's will. It is the heart attitude that says, Not my will but thine be done (Luke 22:42) 99% Obedience is 100% Rebellion. It is either all or nothing with God (Revelation 3:14-19). God says to the last church age to be zealous and repent, don't be lukewarm!

Zealous – has great energy or enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause or objective
Zeal – passionate; and eagerness of desire to accomplish or obtain something

Jesus, during his earthly ministry, had no certain dwelling place. He was led of the Spirit (Mark 1:12). Sometimes that means going places where you don't want to be, doing things your flesh does not like, but that's okay, if you are doing what God says your doing the only thing that matters. (see also Romans 8:14)

Tangent in reference to Luke 22:42

Two Cups: Cup of Wrath and the Cup of Blessing

Cup of Wrath – Psalm 11:6, 75:8, Isaiah 51:17, Jeremiah 25:15-29, John 18:11, Revelation 14:10

Cup of Blessing – Psalm 16:5, 23:5, 116:13, Matthew 20:22-23

*Jesus prayed that he would not have to be separated from the Father and endure his wrath, and the Father said to the Son, No, there is no other way. If you want to save them, this is the only way to free them from the bondage of sin, death, hell, the devil, and the grave: you must become that which I hate, sin and be separated from me for a little season. Though Jesus was heard of God in prayer, the answer was no. Sometimes the answer is no from God. But with Jesus in his heart he wanted his Father's will to be done.

(9:59-60)

Jesus calls another to follow after him but he wanted to do something first, and then follow Jesus. Hey Jesus is more important than anything else! Isn't he? Why don't you think so? He deserves the preeminence (Colossians 1:15-18).

How many Christians are like this today? I want to "live life to the fullest" first and later when I'm older I'll follow Jesus. No you won't. I want to do what I want now, and later on I'll follow the Lord. Be careful! That is dangerous. If you keep rejecting the LORD and grieving the Holy Ghost of God which is in you he will give you over to a reprobate mind and you'll start calling evil good and good evil, and put darkness for light and light for darkness, and be so far out of the will of God and then one day you'll wonder, Where is God? You wanted nothing to do with him early on so he is far from you now.

If you forsake the Lord he will forsake you (2 Chronicles 7:19-22, 15:1-2), but you are still saved (Psalm 89:24-33, Hebrews 13:5) Psalm 89 outlines the sure mercies of David that is spoken of in Isaiah 55:3-5, Acts 13:30-35 and Jesus had these mercies of David and if you are in Christ, you have the sure mercies of David. What are the sure mercies of David? In a nutshell, eternal security.

(9:61-62)

Again another man wants to follow the Lord but wants to do something else first, but what did the Lord answer him. Hey, No man having put his hand to the plough and looking back is fit for the kingdom of God. He is saying you are not worthy, not ready, and not able to be a follower of Jesus if you are holding onto anything beside Jesus alone. You need to sell out to the Lord and present your body a living sacrifice unto the Lord (Romans 12:1-2) Do you want God to use you? Do you want God to bring honour and glory to his name through your life? You have to be willing to forsake all and give up all! If not, you are not fit for the master's use!

The Continual burnt offering (Numbers 28:1-8, Exodus 28:38-43)

In the Old Testament, God commanded a continual burnt offering. Two lambs of the first year without spot day by day. One offered in the morning (2 Chronicles 12:14, Psalm 5:1-3, 55:17, 59:16, 88:13) the other offered at evening (Psalm 1:2, 42:8, 63:6, 88:1, 92:1-2). This is a great type of what the Lord expects from the Christian. He expects an offering unto the Lord in the morning and evening. The Bible also says we are to pray without ceasing, rejoice evermore, give thanks in all things don't quench the Holy Ghost, don't despise prophesyings, prove all things, hold fast to what is good, and abstain from all appearance of evil (1 Thessalonians 5:16-23).

Offering your whole body might cause your flesh to burn, but the Lord likes the smell of roasting flesh, Amen! It will be a sweet smelling savour unto the Lord. Hey what good has your flesh done for you anyway? (Romans 6)

It is going to cost you to follow of Jesus, it's a sacrifice

What will it cost you? It might cost you time, family, friends, loved ones, money, your will, desires, and ambitions, your life, your status, your comfort, your popularity, your job, etc.

It might cost you worldly pleasure, favor, status and comfort like it did Moses (Hebrews 11:24-27). Moses forsook the world. Moses said I'd rather suffer affliction with the people of God that have the treasures of Egypt.

You need to forsake some things

Forsake the foolish and live (Proverbs 9:6)

Forsake your own ways (Isaiah 55:7)

Forsake your idols of the world (Ezekiel 20:8)

Forsake all things and follow Jesus (Mark 10:28-30)

Paul counted all his past dung, and said he'd rather have Jesus (Philippians 3:7-14)

If you don't put Jesus first above all, you are not worthy of him and cannot be his disciple (Luke 14:25-35, Matthew 10:37-39).

Don't forsake these things

Don't forsake the Lord (Isaiah 1:4)

Forsake not God's law (Proverbs 4:2)

You praise the wicked if you forsake the law (Proverbs 28:4)

You can't follow Jesus in your flesh (Romans 8:1-14)

Why follow Jesus?

I say, Why not?

Listen Jesus is the only one that is worthy (Revelation 5)!

You are bought with a price (1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 7:23-24), with the precious blood of Jesus! (1 Peter 1:18-19) You belong to him!

Be obedient children (1 Peter 1:13-16)

How to follow Jesus

Revelation 1:3 Read, understand, and keep what that book says!

Mark 15:37-41 Salome followed Jesus to the end

"It doesn't matter how you start, it matters how you finish" – Pat Dean
(Think of a race, think of Demas who later forsook Paul)

3 Types of Christians:

Mark 4:3-20 The Parable of the sower

One last verse

Joshua 24:15 – Choose ye this day whom ye will serve