

Follow Me

Text: Matthew 4:19

Introduction

Important truths.

1. Whom we are to follow—Jesus.
 2. The simplicity of the command—“Follow me.”
 3. What He will do for those who follow Him—“make you fishers of men.”
 4. Implied is the question, “Where shall we follow Him?”—to where men are.
- Let us examine where He went so we may know where following Him will take us.

Message

1. Where did Christ go?

- a. Ministered to cities (Luke 4:43; Mark 1:38; Matthew 9:35, 36–38).
- b. Pronounced judgment on certain cities (Matthew 11:21–23).
- c. Showed compassion toward a city (Matthew 23:37) and wept over it (Luke 19:41).

2. Where did the disciples go?

- a. After the Pentecostal outpouring the disciples witnessed first to a city: “In Jerusalem” (Acts 1:8).
- b. The high priest criticized the disciples saying, “Ye have filled Jerusalem [a city] with your doctrine” (Acts 5:28).
- c. When persecution arose, the Christians were scattered. Philip went to the city of Samaria and preached Christ there (Acts 8:5).

3. Where are we to go?

- a. Into the next towns, neighboring towns, even country towns. “And he said unto them, Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth” (Mark 1:38).
- b. Into other cities. “And he said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent” (Luke 4:43).
- c. Into all the cities. “And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching...and preaching...and healing every sickness...among the people” (Matthew 9:35).

4. What does following Christ really mean?

a. It is not enough:

- (1) To distribute tracts, hang up signs, mail out invitations to services.
- (2) To erect buildings.
- (3) To plan programs.
- (4) To build an organization.
- (5) Just to hold our own.

b. Following Christ means:

- (1) Personal involvement.
- (2) Extension (to other cities) as well as expansion.
- (3) Fruit (fishers of men).
- (4) Signs following. “And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils” (Mark 3:14,15). “These signs shall follow them that believe” (Mark 16:17,18).

5. What is our responsibility today?

- a. We must reach the unborn generations. If Jesus tarries, the unborn generations will either be exposed to the gospel of Christ or live in heathen darkness as a result of what we do now.
 - b. We must reach all living Americans. Research indicates 90 million living in America now never have been approached personally with the claims of Christ.
- Disillusioned and despairing youth are included in this tremendous harvest field waiting for the gospel of hope that can set them free.

Conclusion

The challenge is before us. Will we accept it?

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