




***Jesus***

***Lesson #6 Following Him***

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# *Questions*

- *What does it mean to follow Jesus?*
  - *What would it look like?*
  - *Can you be a Christian without following Jesus?*
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*Big Question*

***Why follow Jesus?***





# *Why follow Him?*

- *After receiving Christ as savior – choosing to follow Him is the biggest decision of one's life.*
- *There is something very satisfying about trying to follow Jesus and something very uncomfortable about making an insufficient effort.*
- *It's another inversion of this world – whoever gives his life up to follow Jesus finds out what it means to really live.*





# *Jesus asked many to follow Him.*

- *Nearly every time we see the English “follow” in the gospels, the Greek word is “akoloutheo” .*
- *In general, there is no mystery to the meaning – it means:*
  - *To be on the same path or road*
  - *To be with*
  - *To be united with*






# *The Road May Be Rough*

- *Matthew 8:19 Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." 20 Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."*
- *Jesus is not saying if you follow him that you will not have a home – he is saying if you follow him do not expect that creature comforts will always be yours.*
- *Do not make bold promises without knowing where following Jesus may lead.*






## *It is About Priorities*

- *Matthew 8:21 Another disciple said to him, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." 22 But Jesus told him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead." NIV*
  - *The call to follow is about the living – as unreasonable as Jesus' reply is, it points to the fact that it would be better to spend your time reaching the living than to spend your time on those whose fate is sealed.*
  - *This call is about priorities.*
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## *It is About Priorities*

- *Following Jesus as a disciple involves a serious commitment.*
  - *If it is not a priority you will not do it well – you may not do it at all.*
  - *To be honest, I suspect we all struggle more with following Jesus than we do believing in Jesus, but faith without works is dead.*
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## *Some Are Ready*

- *Matthew 9:9 As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. NIV*
  - *We are not told of any special preparation work done in Matthew, but there must have been.*
  - *Just as some are ready now and some are not – don't try to solve it – try to be ready.*
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# *There is a Cost*

- *Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me.*
  - *To be on the same road as Jesus pursuing him will cost you..... maybe everything.*
  - *Jesus never spoke of a Christianity that was easy, cheap, passive, or desirable by the world's standards.*
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# *We Know When He Speaks*

- *John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: KJV*
  - *The picture is a shepherd calling his sheep – the sheep are so accustomed to hearing his voice that they don't need to see the shepherd to know whose voice it is.*
  - *Many voices compete for our time, talent, and treasure – spend enough time with Jesus so you can distinguish his voice.*
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## *Remove the Barriers*

- *Matthew 19:21 Jesus told him, "If you want to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."*
  - *This is not a universal imperative – this was to a man whose love for money would keep him from following.*
  - *What is my barrier?*
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***You are not following unless  
someone is leading.***

- ***Romans 8:14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. NASU***
- ***Galatians 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. NASU***
- ***The Holy Spirit will lead – will we ask? Will we follow?***





## ***Bottom Line in 2010***

- ***If you want to follow Jesus you must know the word because it is the will of God.***
  - ***You must cooperate with the Holy Spirit or you will be nothing more than an educated, and frustrated, Christian.***
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# Questions

