

## I Will Follow You

Luke 9: 51-62

7/16/00

### Intro

Mexico team is coming back to day.

They've been learning that there is great joy in serving in Christ's name.

To live "in Christ's name" is to depart from standard religion and standard living.

The world had never seen anyone like Jesus before.

Religious experience was bound up in books containing rules, regulations, prescribed mantras, and strict interpretation.

Then the very Son of God comes and shatters their understanding of how to relate to God. He emphasizes the sincerity of the heart toward God and love toward man.

Then He says, "Follow Me."

This section teaches us important lessons about following Christ in this radical way of life.

### I. Operate in Jesus' Name

Vs 48-50

A. As though Christ were there.

- Make it clear whom you represent.

### Illus-

The two old, blind women in Russia.

B. In Jesus, if they're not against me, they're for me.

- There should be more unity in the following of Christ.
- All Christians are brothers.

### Illus-

In the book of Revelation there are many songs, but no solos. They are sung in unity.

## II. Operate Toward Others With Christ's Character

Vs 51-56

A. Our tendency is to want to call down fire from heaven.

To follow Christ is to take on His heart and attitude toward others.

We need Christ's thoughts in order to have Christ's attitudes.

B. Jesus did not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them.

He did not take it personally. This requires maturity, but the result is worth it. No bitterness.

We react poorly when we try to defend ourselves. It's better to see people through the eyes of Christ.

III. Following Christ Has a Cost

Vs 57-62     A. Your home is not on earth

Foxes have holes and birds have nests,  
but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay  
His head.

A. If you don't want to go, just say so. It's best  
not to make excuses.

Illus-     I have to do my taxes. I have to get my act  
together. I have to take care of some business.

Excuses make us sound good, when in  
reality, we just don't want to go.

B. Count the cost. You have to be willing to  
give up something in order to follow Christ.

Illus-     The rich, young ruler went away sad that Jesus  
had asked him to give up so much, but notice  
that Christ did not offer him a deal or a  
compromise.

- He wants your whole heart.
- He wants you to be in love with Him.

Conclusion

- It's easier to think of following Christ  
as giving Him our lives in a blaze of  
glory. But in reality, we are called to  
follow Christ by giving our lives one  
small piece at a time.
- Either you're for or you're against  
Jesus. If you've made your decision,  
then follow Christ all the way.