

I Will Follow You

Luke 9: 51-62

7/16/00

Intro

The world had never seen anyone like Jesus before. All 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 and action toward man.

To Follow Christ is to Follow His Heart

These are important lessons for us because many have desires of ambition, importance, significance, and value.

I. Operate in Jesus' Name

Vs 37-43

A. Jesus calls them an unbelieving and perverted generation.

- Unbelieving, in that faith is central to operating the way God intends.

Mark 9:23,24,29

B. Weak men are the conduits of a powerful God.

- Prayer is one essential key to the operation of God's power in our lives.

C. Do you believe the physical is affected by the spiritual? Do you believe the physical is mastered by the spiritual?

If this is so, then the best thing we can do is to recognize the

II. Gracious Toward Those Who Don't Like Us

Vs 46-48

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

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

Christ 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 at people through the eyes of Christ.

C. In the world, greatness is measured by position, even if there's a lack of character. In the Kingdom of God, greatness is measured by character, not position.

Illus- Rude executives; it's a way of getting what you want (it's also very effective in the world).

Illus- David Livingstone, Hudson Taylor will live in history as great men of God.

Would you rather be great in the eyes of man or the eyes of God?

D. Servant leadership.

- Is thinking of yourself less – true humility.

Illus- The professor at John Hopkins University.

- Is the model we choose for our church.

E. Jesus said, "I did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give my life as a ransom for many."

F. There is joy in true serving.

Those who are truly servants at heart, find great joy in it.

Illus- The man who lost his Christian joy.

Illus- Once a waiter, always a waiter.

B. If you don't want to go, just say so.

Illus-

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

C. It's not measured by the position you have.

D. It's not measured by the money you have.

E. It's measured by how you serve others.

- Considering lowly people as important.
- Considering others more important than yourself.
- When God loved the world He gave.

Conclusion

We all have goals and ambitions in life. In our hearts, we desire to be great. Jesus does not condemn the desire. He simply wants us to understand the key to attaining true greatness:

- Serving as many people as possible.
- Serving the lowly in the name of Christ.

III. Following Christ Has a Cost

A. Your home is not on earth