

SERMON NOTES

October 26, 2014

“Follow The Leader”

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“Leading People to Become Followers of Jesus Christ Together in God’s World”

I. FOLLOWING JESUS

A Repeated Theme in the Gospels:

Bryan Sirchio song: **“Follow me (87 Times)”??**

“Following Jesus” mentioned x87 in Four Gospels;
(Including x21 **“Follow Me!”**)

A Powerful Command: when Jesus called, people followed . . .

II. JESUS SAID, “FOLLOW ME!”

1. Not just “Believe who I am” . . .
2. Not just “Listen to my teaching” . . .
3. Not just “Watch what I do” . . .

But

1. Follow Me! Believe that I’m so important, so important to you, so you Stay really close to me, Don’t lose track, Keep me in view

Can be Hard – *we lose track so easily (think movie car chase)*

But . . . *we “follow” Family, Friends, Team . . .*

via Web, TV, Phones, Twitter, Facebook; “MyMobileWatchdog.com”

2. Follow Me! Listen to me, and Act: Respond and Obey

We follow those who enrich and guide life; or acknowledged authorities; or those we trust when in danger. E.g., Authors, Columnists, Gurus; Boss, Doctor, Wilderness Guide, Preacher(?!)

3. Follow Me! Watch me, and Imitate me, and Copy me.

Especially important in learning a skill (e.g., making a violin)

We all learn by watching others – children, peers, role models:

-- can be powerful for good or ill

. . . Not all set out to be role models, or want to be . . . or to attract followers . . .

III. IS JESUS CALL ARROGANCE? . . . OR LOVE?? . . .

1. Could Jesus be **the** Person we cannot live without (Stay Close!)
2. Could Jesus be **the** Voice -- Wiser, more healing, more powerful than all (Listen, Act, Obey the true Guide and great Physician)
3. Could Jesus be **the** Image we were created to be like (Imitate, Copy!)

IV. JESUS NEVER SAID THAT FOLLOWING WOULD BE EASY

Work to Do:

Matthew 4:19,20 **Follow me**, and I will make you fish for people." Immediately they left their nets **and followed him**.

Uncertainty and Discomfort:

Matthew 8:19-20 **Teacher**, I will **follow** you wherever you go."
Jesus said: "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

Sacrifice:

Matthew 19:21 **Sell** your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, **follow me**.

Matthew 10:38 whoever does not take up the cross and **follow me** is not worthy of me.

Matthew 16:24 If any want to become my **followers**, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and **follow me**.

Be Aware of the Temptation to Half-Follow: “At a Distance”

Matthew 26:58 **But Peter was following him at a distance**, as far as the courtyard of the high priest

Remember there are Promises:

John 12:26 **Whoever serves me must follow me**. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

John 8:12 **Whoever follows me** will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

John 10:27,28 **My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me**. I give them eternal life. No one will snatch them out of my hand.

The truth is . . . Everyone follows someone . . .

The question is . . . Who’s the right one? The best one? . . .

And will we actually follow? Follow Christ?

And lead others to follow Christ too?

Bryan Sirchio “Follow me (87 times)”

I met this preacher from Australia, He read the Bible searching for its dominant themes. *And he counted 87 times when Jesus said... “Follow me.”*

Well you know that got me thinking . . . Am I following Jesus, or just believing in Christ? Because I can believe and not change a thing; But following will change my whole life. He never said, “come, acknowledge my existence”; Or “believe in me, I’m the 2nd person of the Trinity” *But 87 time he said... Follow me*. Now don’t get me wrong, we need to know what we believe. But lately I’ve been wondering... *87 time he said... Follow me. Am I following Jesus, or just believing in Christ?*