

# Called To Follow In HIS Steps

Notes by Franklin 1 Peter 2:21

JESUS called His disciples with two words: **Follow Me**

Matthew 4:18-22 He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. 19 And He said to them, **FOLLOW ME, and I will make you fishers of men.** 20 **IMMEDIATELY** they left their nets and **FOLLOWED HIM.** 21 Going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and **HE CALLED THEM.** 22 **IMMEDIATELY** they left the boat and **their father** and **FOLLOWED HIM.**

Some volunteered to Follow, who were NOT CALLED.

Matthew 8:19-22 Then a scribe came and said to Him, "Teacher, **I will follow You wherever You go.**" 20 JESUS said to him, **The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.**

- JESUS did not call him, he volunteered. (The Wedding Feast Parable Mt.22:1-14)

"Some were Called / Some were Sent / Some just got up and went." Someone said

- We know that the spoken rhema Word of The LORD has creative power so that when JESUS said **FOLLOW ME** it produced Faith to those HE CALLED.
- It appears that this simple statement of discomfort discouraged him.

21 Another of the **disciples** said to Him, Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father. 22 JESUS said to him, **FOLLOW ME, and allow the dead to bury the dead.**

- Such a hard statement. JESUS told us Mt.6:33 **Seek FIRST HIS Kingdom and HIS righteousness.** But HE also told us to **Honor our father and mother.**
- So, what is this?? Is HE looking for immediate response like the first four HE called? Is our commitment revealed by how quickly we respond and obey??
- **GOD sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.** (1 Samuel 16:7)
- The LORD looks at our heart. HE knows why we say and do what we do.

A good example is the rich young ruler:

Luke 18:21 Jesus said to him: **You know the commandments . . .** And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." 22 When Jesus heard this, He said to him, **One thing you still lack; sell all that you possess and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, FOLLOW ME.** 23 But when he had heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich.

- This is a Very Hard statement for any of us to **sell all** and to **follow**. The LORD was clearly revealing his heart. And HE does the same to each of us.
- It appears **he was a believer** but chose to **put limits on his commitment**. Most, if not all of us do this and thus Very Few place HIM FIRST in EVERYTHING.
- It is a matter of what we like, **what we love most**, we will pursue. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (To the degree that) **the LOVE of CHRIST controls us** (and we believe) . . . HE died for (me, then) they who live might **no longer live for themselves, but for HIM who died and rose again on their behalf**.
- JESUS said: **sell all that you possess and give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven.** HE does not ask us to do anything that HE has not done.
- AND THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT JESUS DID. HE GAVE UP EVERYTHING BECAUSE OF THE VALUE and HIS LOVE FOR THE TREASURE HE WOULD LAY UP IN HEAVEN.

Let me paint the picture: The LORD GOD created Adam & Eve in HIS own image. HE loved walking and talking with them every day in the Garden. But they were deceived and obeyed the serpent and ate of the tree that GOD said **From the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat. For in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die.** Genesis 2:17

Allow me to use my imagination:

The angels saw how MUCH The LORD loved Adam & Eve. They saw The LORD GOD talk and walk with them every day. So when they saw Adam & Eve rebel, say "no" to The LORD and obey the serpent and die, I believe the angels were saying "Oh No! What can be done? They have rebelled, sinned and died, what can be done???"

Then they saw The LORD JESUS CHRIST stand up from His Throne and say, "I will redeem them for You FATHER." And now we read

Philippians 2:6-8 although HE existed in the form of GOD, (1) HE did not regard **equality with GOD a thing to hold on to**, (2) HE stood up, laid aside HIS Crown and stepped **DOWN** from His Throne. (3) **7 HE emptied Himself**, gave up HIS position, HIS place, HIS rights to use the powers of Deity. A huge step **DOWN** and (4) **taking the form of a bond-servant**, to HIS FATHER to only do and say what HE hears and sees HIS FATHER saying and doing. **8 And being found as a man**, confined to the limitations of a human body (5) **HE humbled Himself (DOWN even more) by becoming OBEDIENT TO THE POINT OF DEATH, EVEN DEATH ON A CROSS.**

- **HE GAVE UP EVERYTHING** BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE AND THE VALUE OF THE TREASURE HE WAS REDEEMING.
- THE TREASURE -> PEOPLE <- WERE **SO VALUABLE TO HIM THAT HE GAVE HIS OWN LIFE.** And, HE knew HIS ministry, HIS purpose on earth was to redeem HIS FATHER'S children.
  - ❖ So, HOW VALUABLE ARE YOU TO JESUS and YOUR FATHER???
- **THE VALUE OF WHAT WE LOVE, WHAT WE WANT, IS REVEALED BY THE PRICE WE ARE WILLING TO GIVE TO OBTAIN IT.**

Coming into this world as a man, JESUS also became a **servant to all mankind** and said: **the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.** Matthew 20:28 Before You go anywhere or accept any position quote the Words of JESUS and go with that attitude.

1 Peter 2:21 For **YOU have been CALLED FOR THIS PURPOSE, since CHRIST SUFFERED FOR YOU, giving YOU an EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW IN HIS STEPS.**

- WE MUST ASK OURSELVES . . . HOW MANY OF HIS STEPS AM I FOLLOWING? ? ? ? ? HOW MUCH SUFFERING AM I WILLING TO ENDURE FOR HIM? ? ? ?

The above Philippians verse begins with: vs.5 **HAVE THIS ATTITUDE IN YOURSELVES** which was also in CHRIST JESUS.

Therefore, lets FOLLOW HIS STEPS:

1. **HE did not hold to being equal with GOD.** HE gave up HIS AUTHORITY and became a **FOLLOWER** of HIS FATHER. Surrendered HIS decision making and reasoning to HIS FATHER. We MUST **FOLLOW IN HIS STEPS** and NOT put ourselves in the place of GOD when we do not look to HIM for wisdom and direction and fail to ask HIM: WHAT? HOW?? WHEN?? WHO??

**GOD blesses those who realize their need for HIM, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.** Matthew 5:3 NLT

2. HE laid aside HIS Crown and **stepped DOWN** from HIS Throne.
  - We MUST BE WILLING to: **Step DOWN** from "MY" THRONE, **give up** MY AUTHORITY to RULE MY LIFE and ALLOW HIM to RULE and **FOLLOW HIM**. Not expecting HIM TO FOLLOW ME and bless "MY" plans, even though HE does. **GOD blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth.** Matthew 5:5 NLT

For **I** have **COME DOWN** from heaven, **NOT TO DO MY OWN WILL**, but **THE WILL OF HIM WHO SENT ME**. John 6:38

**As You sent ME into the world, I ALSO HAVE SENT THEM** into the world. John 17:18 NOT TO DO MY OWN WILL BUT THE WILL OF MY LORD JESUS CHRIST and my HEAVENLY FATHER.

3. **HE emptied Himself** of HIMSELF of HIMSELF.

No longer must our thinking first and foremost be about "me" "myself" and "I" but about the need of others.

I had a little tea party this afternoon at three. / It was rather small, three guests in all, I, myself and me. / I ate up the sandwiches while myself drank the tea. / It was I who ate the pie and passed the cake to me. (Author unknown)

For whoever wishes to **save** his life **will lose it**; but whoever loses his life for My sake **will find it**. Matthew 16:25 NLT

4. **HE took the form of a bond-servant**. In the Bible a servant could decide to no longer serve but a **bond-servant** was **a servant for life**. Exodus 21:2-6

Paul was a bond-servant (Ro.1:1) and said: **For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of GOD? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men I WOULD NOT BE A BOND-SERVANT of CHRIST**. Galatians 1:10 as was Epaphras (Col.1:7) Tychicus (Col.4:7) Timothy (2Tim.2:24) James 1:1 Peter (2Pt. 1:1) Jude (1) John (Rev.1:1) Moses (Rev.15:3) **We MUST ask ourself, Who am I Most Concerned about pleasing? Family? Friends? . . . If it is JESUS, Put Your Name Here: \_\_\_\_\_.**

Notice that there are only a few **bond-servants** out of all of HIS followers.

## 5. **HE humbled Himself** by becoming **OBEDIENT TO THE POINT OF DEATH . . . EVEN DEATH ON A CROSS.**

Then JESUS said to His disciples, **If anyone wishes to FOLLOW ME: 1. he must deny himself** (Yield & Obey The LORD) and **2. take up his cross** (living Galatians 2:20) and **3. FOLLOW ME.** For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. Matthew 16:24-26

**LOVE** empowered JESUS, giving HIM the **will** and **strength** to give up all and become a **SERVANT** to all even to the point of dying for all.

**GOD so Loved** the world that HE gave . . . JESUS so **Loved** that **HE came as a SERVANT to all . . . even unto death . . .**

This kind of **LOVE** and being a **SERVANT** is so RARE among us today and is totally against our fallen nature. But it is **a way of life** in The Kingdom of GOD. Here is a good example that could be any one of us.

The mother of James and John asked that her two sons might sit on either side of JESUS in HIS Kingdom. The rest of the disciples became angry and resentful toward James and John. And therefore JESUS revealed to all a principle of The Kingdom that all of us, HIS disciples, **MUST LEARN AND LIVE BY NOW.**

Matthew 20:25-28 **Jesus called them to Himself and said, You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials take pride in their authority** over those under them. 26 But **AMONG YOU it WILL BE DIFFERENT.** Whoever wants to be a **LEADER** among you **must be YOUR SERVANT,** 27 and whoever wants to be **first** among you **MUST BECOME YOUR SLAVE.** 28 **For even the Son of Man came NOT TO BE SERVED but TO SERVE OTHERS and to give HIS life as a ransom for many.**

- Seeing this attitude among his disciples and in all of us, of “me” “myself and “I” is why JESUS did the following at HIS last opportunity to teach before HE was Crucified.

At the last supper JESUS had one last VERY IMPORTANT lesson to teach HIS Disciples. He washed their feet and said: **If I your LORD & Teacher washed your feet you should wash one another’s feet. I gave you and example that **YOU SHOULD DO AS I DID UNTO YOU.****

John 13:13-15

- Washing of the feet should not become a religious practice. That would destroy the original intent and purpose which was teaching by example that **all of HIS disciples should be SERVANTS** to everyone and not requiring or expecting to be served.

To **follow in HIS steps** let us: **fix our eyes on JESUS, . . . who for the **JOY set before HIM endured the cross,**** Hebrews 12:2-3

The **SERVANT** ministry of JESUS CHRIST was prophesied by Isaiah 42:1 and repeated in Matthew 12:18 **Behold, MY SERVANT** whom I have chosen; MY Beloved in whom MY soul is **well-pleased**; I will put MY SPIRIT upon HIM, and HE shall proclaim justice to the gentiles.

- **Being a SERVANT pleases our FATHER.** HE has CHOSEN US, CALLED US, and put HIS SPIRIT in us and upon us and gave us the same mission . . . To seek and to save the lost and to reveal to all the LOVE of JESUS by **BEING A SERVANT TO ALL.**

John 20:21 **So JESUS said to them again, Peace be with you; as the FATHER has sent ME, **I ALSO SEND YOU.**** To Be A SERVANT.

Matthew 23:11-12 **But the greatest among you shall be your SERVANT.** Whoever EXALTS HIMSELF SHALL BE HUMBLLED; and whoever **HUMBLES HIMSELF SHALL BE EXALTED.**

Mark 9:35 If anyone wants to **be first**, he shall be **last of all and SERVANT of all**.

Luke 16:13 No **SERVANT** can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. **You cannot serve GOD and money**.

John 12:26 If anyone **serves Me, he MUST FOLLOW ME**; and where I am, there **MY SERVANT** will be also; **if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him**.

Romans 16:1-2 I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who **is a SERVANT** of the church which is at Cenchrea; 2 that you receive her in the LORD in a manner worthy of the saints, and that you help her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for **she herself has also been a helper of many, and of myself as well**.

### COME FOLLOW ME

Will you come and follow Me if I but call your name?  
 Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
 Will you let My love be shown, Will you let My name be  
 known, Will you let My life be grown in you and you in Me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
 Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
 Will you risk the hostile stare should your light attract or  
 scare, Will you let Me answer prayer in you and you in Me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call you name?  
 Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
 Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,



And admit to what I mean, in you and you in Me?

Will you love the “you” you hide, if I but call you name?

Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?

Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world  
around through My sight and touch and sound in you and  
you in Me?

Lord your summons echoes true when You but call my name.

Let me **turn** and **follow you** and never be the same. In your  
company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show. Thus I’ll  
move and live and grow in You and You in me.