



“Following Jesus” (John 1:35-51)

Everyone lives for something. That something is the Lord of your life whether you want to call it that or not. Jesus is the only Lord that forgives you when you fail Him and fulfills you when you follow Him. Any other Lord is terribly unforgiving and ultimately unfulfilling.

What are Barriers to Following Jesus?

- Persecution John1:19-25; Luke21:17
- Practice (tradition/ritual) vv35-37; Matt15:8-9
- Pride v42; James4:6
- Prejudice v46; Matt13:53-58

How Can We Help People Follow Jesus?

- Preaching vv35-36; 2Tim4:2
- Personal Testimony vv40-41, 44-5; 1Pet3:15
- Pursued by Christ v43; Acts 9 Conversion of Saul to Paul

What Does It Mean to Follow Jesus?

- It is knowing the difference between the messenger and the Message. Vv35-37; 1Cor1:10-13
- It is more than knowing and believing but hungering and thirsting. V38a; John6:35
- It is NOT Jesus following me but me following Jesus. v38b; Matt7:21-23

- It is more than information about Christ but intimacy with Christ. v38c; John17:3
- It is NOT achieving but receiving a new identity. vv40-42; 2Cor5:17, 21
- It is more than a decision it is a commitment. v43; Luke6:46
- It is NOT the size of our faith but the object of our faith that matters most. vv44-51; Heb11:1,6

Growing Notes

- 1) Everyone lives for something. That something is the Lord of your life whether you want to call it that or not. Explain. What does it mean to be a fully devoted follow of Jesus Christ?
- 2) Read John 1:25-51. What stands out to you about these stories of following Christ? What are the four barriers to following Christ? Which one(s) have you seen most active in the lives of those around you who refuse to follow Christ? What are some ways we can help people follow Jesus?
- 3) In following Christ what happens when we confuse the messenger with the message (vv35-37; 1Cor1:10-13)? Following Christ is more than knowing and believing but hungering and thirsting (v38a; Jn6:35). Explain. What is the difference between Jesus following me or me following Jesus (v38b; Matt7:21-23)?
- 4) What is the difference between information about Christ and intimacy with Christ (v38c; Jn17:3 “Know” = intimacy)? Following Christ is not achieving but receiving a new identity (vv40-42; 2Cor5:17, 21). Explain.
- 5) What is the difference between a decision for Christ vs. a commitment to follow Christ (v43; Luke6:46)? It’s not the size of your faith but the object of your faith that matters most (vv44-51). Explain. Review the seven points to what it means to follow Christ. Which one(s) are strengths and which one(s) are growth areas? Commit or recommit your life to Christ in prayer.

