

Who is FOLLOWING you?

Because **Someone is Definitely Following you!**

Today is **Father's** Day —

so this message is **especially** for the **fathers**.

But I **want** to speak to **ALL the men** today,

because men - - **Someone is Following YOU!**

& in the **big picture** – this **Msg** applies to **every man & woman**
who has **committed** to be a **Christ-Follower**

because, for every one of us – **Someone is Following Us**

And it is **especially relevant** in the world we are living in —
with its **chaos**, & **confusion**, & **spiraling sin**.

Through it all — there are **people** in your life

who are **watching you... and following you.**

Let's pray

In the **Marine Corps**, whenever a **squad**
goes out on **patrol** into **enemy** territory,

the **squad** walks in a **single file line** —

each Marine **following** the **one** in **front** of them.

& At the front of that line is the Point Man.

In Afghanistan – where our son David
did this on the Daily – in TWO Tours

Due to the constant threat of IEDs,

the Point Man would carry a mine sweeper
scanning the ground in front of him - to detect danger.

& Right behind him is a rifleman, protecting him

because the Point Man's full focus
must be on the path ahead.

The Point Man knows: every step he takes...
those following him will take the exact same step.

Every turn he makes - every movement —
is MIRRORED by those who are following him.

& so - There is an ENORMOUS responsibility
on the Point Man

to make his path STRAIGHT and his way CLEAR.

Because the LIVES of those who are FOLLOWING him
depend on him choosing the right path.

**MEN — whether you realize it or not - YOU are a Point Man.
& Someone is Following You.**

Where you step - they will step.

The path you choose - is the path they will walk.

**You are leading someone through
a combat zone called "The World."**

And in a combat zone, there is no such thing as
"Do as I say, not as I do."

You won't find a Marine Point Man saying,
"I'm going THIS way, but you go THAT way."

That is not how it works.

The Point Man takes full responsibility —
at the risk of his own life – TO SAY

"Follow ME... I will make the way clear for you."

The Apostle Paul was maybe the best Point Man in the Bible.

Not because he was perfect

but **because he was always following
the Ultimate Point Man: Jesus Christ.**

& so - Paul says in 1 Corinthians 11:1 (NLT)

1 And you should imitate me (follow me), just as I imitate (follow) Christ.

Paul's **confidence** to say "**Follow me**"
wasn't rooted in **SELF-Confidence**

It was **rooted** in the **fact** that **he** was
committed to **Following Jesus**.

If **we** are truly **following Jesus** –
then **he's walking** ahead of us – **w/ the ultimate mine sweeper**.

He **knows every trap**, every **danger**, every **path**.

And **Paul's eyes** were **FIXED on Jesus** —
Following Jesus closely

So that others could Confidently follow him –
as He Followed Jesus

Men — Someone is following you.

If you are a **Father** & a **Husband** -
those **following you** are your **Children** & your **Wife**

And **one** of **Satan's** most **effective strategies**
to **DESTROY** future **generations**

is to **REMOVE** fathers
from their **God-given position** of **leadership**.

Removing a Father physically is his goal

But if he can't do that - he's satisfied with removing them emotionally or spiritually.

**Because if the Point Man is Absent,
the rest of the squad wanders aimlessly through the minefield.**

Men, God made you to lead.

We **must accept** that.

& we **must be ready** to **lay down our lives**
for **those** who are **following** us.

Because this is a **war zone**. And the **lives** of **those** we **love**
are **depending** on our **leadership**.

They will **go** where **you go**
They will **live** as you **live**

The Question is:

Are you willing to give your life to lead them?

I **don't mean** just **PHYSICALLY** - **That's Easy**

I **mean**: are you **willing** to **give up** your **self-focused life**
for the **good** of **those** who are **following you**?

Too many men say, “I’d take a bullet for my family.”

But they won’t read the Bible with their kids at bedtime.

They won’t love their wife sacrificially.

They won’t stop living in BONDAGE to their own sin.

**When I say, “Are you willing to Give your life
for those who are following you,”**

**I MEAN are you willing to surrender your life to Jesus
as your TRUE Point Man**

& Follow HIM – for THEIR Sakes

Paul said in Philippians 3:17 (NLT)

***17 Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and
learn from those who follow our example.***

Can you say that?

Can you say to your children - & your spouse

Pattern your life after mine.

Step where I step.

Do what I do.

Because whether you say that or NOT

They are STILL – Following you

All throughout the Bible, God has made it clear:
Men are called to lead.

This doesn't mean WOMEN can't lead, or don't lead

God has gifted many women to lead powerfully
& we thank God for them.

But today is Father's Day, so we're focusing on the men.

Often, women have to step into leadership in the home
because the man refuses to lead.

& when that happens, Praise God that
He empowers women to fill that leadership gap

I thank God SO MUCH for my own mother
& for how He gifted her - to lead me when I needed it most.

But God's design is that men would lead.

And godly leadership is not for the faint-hearted.

It is a holy calling.

A sacred responsibility.

A battlefield assignment.

If you are a husband and father today,

you carry one of the

greatest leadership responsibilities on earth.

So what does God require of you?

Let's turn over to Micah 6:8

Micah 6:8 (NLT)

8 . . . O people (man), the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

God says: *I have already told you what is good.*

It's written in His Word

& I have already told you what is required of you

And here it is:

1. Do what is right
2. Love mercy
3. Walk humbly with your God

Do what is right - Love mercy - Walk humbly with your God.

This is your roadmap. This is your path forward.

& this is the path for those who are following you.

& **If you feel** the **weight** - of **past mistakes** and **sins**
If you **feel disqualified** or **ashamed**
If **you** are **saying**, “***God, what can I do now?***”

This is God’s answer.

For you to **walk in the new life** that He **freely gives** you

By His **grace**, & **Through** your **faith** & **repentance**,
you are **forgiven**

It is time to **Begin Walking** - in your **new life** in **Christ**

Paul says in Ephesians 1:19–20 (NLT)

19 I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power 20 that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms.

The **same power** that **raised Jesus** from the **grave**
lives in **YOU** — & you **can begin** to **WALK in it - TODAY**

This is the Power of God that enables you to
do what is right,
to embrace mercy,
and to walk humbly with God.

1. **TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT** means to **live** with **integrity**
not just in **public**, but in **private**.

It means **choosing obedience** - even **when** it's **hard**,
& **doing** the **will of God** - even **when no one** is **watching**.

& - doing what is right is NOT about being PERFECT.

It's about walking in the truth of God's Word,
doing what honors Him,
and repenting quickly when we fall short.

& THAT is what those who are following us - need to see:

& THE WORD FOR MERCY in Hebrew
means faithful, steadfast, loving-kindness.

That's what we need to show those who are following us:

"Faithful, steadfast, loving-kindness."

AND HUMILITY – is the opposite of pride -
& pride is the root of all sin.

& If there's one thing -
those who follow us need to see in us, it's this:

A man who walks humbly with his God.

It means - walking without PRIDE

It means - following Jesus closely,
& admitting when you're wrong

It means - letting those who are following you,
see you being committed to follow Jesus

This is what it looks like

to be the **POINT-MAN** in this **Battle**:

- ***It's being a man who does what is right even when it's hard.***
- ***It's being a man who shows mercy with faithful, steadfast love.***
- ***It's being a man who walks humbly with his God, laying down his pride every day.***

It's **when** we **lead** – **LIKE THIS** - **BY following Jesus**

that **those** who are **following us** will **be able**
to **navigate** the **MINEFIELD** of this **world**

Let me **paint** a **Powerful Picture** for you - **one I'll never forget** -
of **what** this **looks** like – **IN ACTION**

It **happened** at a **Promise Keepers** event some **years** ago

Dennis Rainey was on **stage** with **12 animal traps** laid out
across the stage - **set** and **ready** to **spring**

including the **largest BEAR trap** ever **made** –
which **took 3 men** to **set** and **load**

He **talked** about **how dangerous** this **world** is
for our **children** to **walk** through - **on their own**.

& he talked about each trap
as ONE of the many traps in this world

The Massive Bear trap was - "SEXUAL IMMORALITY"

Then he brought a father
& his 13-year-old son onto the stage.

The son stood barefoot and blindfolded
at one end of the stage - surrounded by open traps

With that massive bear trap - 10 feet straight in front of him

& the father stood at the other side of the stage

& he told the father to guide his son - By Speaking to him -
to Guide him around these traps that would kill him

and the dad tried, nervously,
to have him take his first 2 steps

But suddenly the dad shouted: "STOP! DO NOT MOVE!"

He walked across the stage, took his son's hands, and said:

*"Put your hands on my shoulders.
Stay close. & Step exactly where I step"*

And step by step, the father led his son safely
through every trap on that stage

& the stadium ERUPTED in APPLAUSE - & Understanding

Men – THAT is what

our **sons** and our **daughters** (& our **wives**) **need from us**.

They **don't need** just our **words**.

They **need** our **faithful example**.

They **need someone** who will say: ***“Put your hands on my shoulders and follow me carefully — as I follow Christ.”***

If **you** are a **father** —

You **can begin** building **this kind** of **relationship** – **TODAY**

Build a **relationship** with your **Children**

that **allows them** to **reach out**, **put** their **hands** on your **shoulders**,
& **follow you** - as **you** follow **Jesus**.

Because **only then** can you **lead them** through the **minefield**
the **enemy** has **set up for them** in this **world**.

Take your **God-given responsibility** - **seriously**.

Lead them to **Jesus**. – Then **Lead them** through **the traps**

(again) Micah 6:8 (NLT)

8 . . . the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

Let's Pray

If you are buried in regret...

if the weight of your past sin crushes you...

your only hope is to come to Jesus and BE REDEEMED.

CRY OUT TO GOD: > *“God, I’m sorry for my past. I can’t fix it. The guilt is too heavy. Please forgive me. Cover my sin with your blood. Receive me by your grace. Cleanse me, and make me ready to follow you.”*

If you’ve abandoned your position as the Point Man —
Physically, Emotionally, or Spiritually

& those who should be following you
are wandering alone in the Mine Field

MAKE THIS YOUR PRAYER: > *“God, break the chains of my sin. I repent. Please give me the power to walk in freedom. Make me new. I commit to get back on the battlefield, to take my place, and to lead those who are following me.”*

Amen