

Spc 183 - **Someone is Following You – Micah 6:8**

(Father's Day 2020)

Let me ask you a Question . . .

Who is FOLLOWING You? . . . *SOMEONE IS!*

Someone – is FOLLOWING You!

**Today is Father's Day – so, for all the Father's –
this msg is especially for YOU**

But I want to Speak to ALL the MEN today

BECAUSE – MEN . . . Someone is FOLLOWING YOU !

But – this msg is NOT JUST for Men either

Because this **COMMISSION** from God **APPLIES** to every
Man AND Woman – Who is **following Jesus** Christ

And – it is **especially relevant** – in the **crazy - COVID, RIOT,**
CIVIL-WAR environment our country is in (2020)

IN it all – **THRU** it all

You have **people** in your **life** who are **WATCHING** you
& **FOLLOWING** you

Let's Pray

In the Marine Corps whenever a squad goes out on Patrol in Enemy territory

The Squad walks - in a single file line—
All Following – the Point-Man

In Afghanistan – because of the high rate of I.E.D.'s the Point-Man walked with a Mine Sweeper

& he's got a Rifleman right behind him – to Protect him - Because his focus has to be entirely on THE PATH

The Point-Man knows - EVERY STEP he takes - the men who are following him – are going take that SAME STEP.

EVERY TURN he takes, every man in his squad is going to take that same turn

& so - there's a Huge Responsibility on the Point Man to make his path "Straight" & his way "Clear"

Because the Lives of those who are following him DEPEND on him CHOOSING the Right Path

MEN – Whether you know it or not – YOU are a POINT MAN
And . . . SOMEONE is Following You

& WHERE You Step – is Where
Those who are following you - are going to STEP

& the Path YOU Choose
Is the Path THEY are going to WALK

SOMEONE is Following You

in this **COMBAT ZONE** - Called '**The World**'

& in a **Combat Zone**

there is **NO** "***Do as I SAY, Not as I DO***"

You will **NOT** find a **Point-Man** on a Military Patrol - Saying
"I'm going THIS Way - But You go THAT WAY"

The Point Man takes the **Responsibility** -

At the **RISK** of His **OWN LIFE**

To say – **FOLLOW ME** – As I **CHOOSE** the Path

& **I will Make** the **Way CLEAR** for you

BUT – we are **supposed** to **ONLY BE** –

the **Point-Man** that our **Families** (& **others**) **CAN SEE**

They're **Following us** – **BUT** – **For THEIR Sake**

We **MUST be Following** the **True** & **Ultimate Point-Man**

1 Corinthians 11:1 Paul says (NIV)

1 Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

Paul says – **Jesus Christ** is the **TRUE** - **Point-Man**

Jesus Christ is - in **Front** of **Me**

with the **Ultimate Mine Sweeper**

He knows where **Every MINE** is

Where **Every DANGER** is

& he knows the ONLY - Guaranteed SAFE Path

& So - I have my eyes Firmly SET on him
& I'm Stepping right where He Steps

So YOU can Follow ME
AS I AM Following Jesus Christ

& we will get through this MINE-FIELD called The World

MEN – SOMEONE is Following you
thru the MINE-FIELD of this World

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

& One of Satan's Most Effective strategies
to TRY to destroy future generations

is to remove FATHERS - from LEADING their families

Removing them PHYSICALLY = his best-case scenario

But the Enemy is OKAY - with removing Fathers
EMOTIONALLY & SPIRITUALLY as well

Because if Satan can Remove the POINT-MAN
Physically, Emotionally, or Spiritually

Then that family will WANDER around aimlessly
in the Minefield of this World – Often to their Destruction

MEN – God Made us to LEAD !!

We have **GOT** to **ACCEPT** that - & we have **GOT** to be **ready**
to Give our LIVES - for **those** who are **following** us

Because we are **leading** those **WE LOVE**
through a **Mine-Field** – **in** a **War Zone**

The **Apostle Paul** **said** to those **who** were **Following HIM**

In - 2 Corinthians 4:11–12 (NLT)

11 Yes, we live under constant danger of death because we serve Jesus, so that the life of Jesus will be evident (will be seen) in our dying bodies.

12 So we live in the face of death, but this has resulted in eternal life for you.

Now, **Paul** was **actually talking about**
the **Risk** of **Physical DEATH** here

But – this is **WAR-TIME** Mentality
Because we **Live** in a **Spiritual WAR ZONE**

& SOMEONE is FOLLOWING YOU

They're going to **GO** the **way** you **GO**
They're going to **LIVE** the **way** you **LIVE**

The question is

Are you Willing to Give your LIFE – To LEAD them?

& **Believe me** – There are **FAR TOO MANY** Men

Who will say ***“YEAH - I’d give my life for my family . . .
“I’d take a bullet for my family”***

***But I don’t have time to read my kids a Bible story at Bedtime
I won’t do the dishes for my wife when she’s tired
& I won’t stop living as a P.O.W. In the Shackles of MY SIN***

Guys - when I say – Are you Willing to GIVE your LIFE?
I don’t mean – Are you Willing to DIE?

I mean are you willing to GIVE UP your Self-Centered Life
For the Good of those who are Following You?

Again – over in Philippians
Paul says to those who are Following Him

In - Philippians 3:17 (NLT)
17 Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine . . .

Can YOU say THAT – to those who are following you?

Can you really Say - To your Children, & Your Family?

***You guys Pattern your lives after mine
WATCH what I do – in Public & in Private***

***& you DO what I DO –
STEP where I STEP - WALK where I WALK***

MEN - Someone is FOLLOWING YOU

**All thru the Bible – it's clear
that God created Men to LEAD**

But - that DOESN'T mean WOMEN CAN'T Lead

God **HAS** also **Gifted Women** to **LEAD**
& **we** have **great women leaders** in this **church**

But – it's **Father's Day**
so I'm **kinda Focused** on the **men** here

But **often** – **Women** are **FORCED** to **Lead**
in the **most critical Battlefield** – **Called the HOME**

Because the **MEN** – **WON'T LEAD**

When a **Father Cops Out** – Or **Checks Out**
So **often**, a **Mother** is **gifted by God** to **lead** the **family**

And I am forever grateful for my **own mother**
& for **God GIFTING her** - to **lead me** (*in so many ways*)

But **STILL** – God **CREATED Men** to **lead**
That IS – **actually God's Plan**

& Godly Leadership is NOT for the Feint-Hearted

It's Not for the WEAK

It is an **Incredible - Challenge - Sacrifice - & Responsibility**

If you are a **HUSBAND & FATHER** Today

then you have the SINGLE GREATEST Leadership Responsibility there is

So – **Let's See – HOW God Says – We** are to **LEAD - Turn over to MICAH**

(Turn to the Book of CONTENTS – Chk the page #)

In **the time just before the Fall of Jerusalem to Babylon**
& the **beginning** of the **Babylonian captivity**

A **prophet** by the **name** of **MICAH** was **used by God** to **(again) call the People of God to Repentance**

& **MUCH** of the **Prophecy** in **MICAH** **focuses** on
the **Sinful & Self-Centered - LEADERS** of **God's People**

Everything from **Idolatry** – to the **LEADER'S Failures**
in **Moral - Civil** – & **Religious Practices** – is **all there**

Micah Ch 6 begins the **Lord's Indictment** (His **CASE**)
against Israel - & **specifically** against the **LEADERS**

& **God** says in **Micah 6:3** – *What have I done to you, to make you turn away from me & follow the gods of this world?*

& then **(in V.6)** the **Leaders respond** to **God** –
& **their response** seems **SARCASTIC** at **first glance**

But **really** what **they're saying** is,
what can we do at this point?

*We've already blown it so bad, is there anything
that can bring us back to God?*

The **leaders** of Israel **KNEW**
there was **nothing** they **COULD DO**

to **EARN forgiveness** from **God**
for the **SINS** and **MISTAKES** of their **past**

And there is nothing WE can do
to **EARN** God's **forgiveness**
for the **SINS** and **MISTAKES** of **OUR PAST**

Just like the **Israelites**, our **only hope**
is in **God's MERCY** and his **GRACE** towards us

And **I promise** you, **if** you have **REPENTED**
& **Truly** received **Jesus Christ** - as your **Savior** & **Lord**

Then you **have received** God's **MERCY** and his **GRACE**
& he has **FORGIVEN** the **Sins** and **Mistakes** of your **past**

But that Leaves us with ONE QUESTION – doesn't it

WHAT Does The Lord REQUIRE of us Now – TODAY

Now that we've Repented of our PAST SIN

& we RECOGNIZE -

there IS SOMEONE FOLLOWING US

WHAT do we do – NOW?

Fortunately – In Micah Ch 6 - God SUMMARIZES –
ALL that HE requires of us – IN Just 3 COMMANDS

God had CHARGED the People for their Rebellion (v.3)

The LEADERS have said (in essence) – there's nothing
we can DO - to EARN God's Forgiveness (v.6)

& Then God Responds in Micah 6:8 (NLT)

8 No, O people (Literally, O MAN), the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: (1) to do what is right, (2) to love mercy, and (3) to walk humbly with your God.

1st - God says – “*O MAN*” - “*I've already TOLD YOU what is GOOD - It's already written in my Word*”

And here is what the Lord requires of you today:

- 1) DO what is RIGHT
- 2) LOVE MERCY
- 3) WALK HUMBLY with Your God

Men, if you **would say**
with the **leaders** of **Israel** in **Micah Chapter 6**

I have regrets (remorse) for my mistakes and sins of my past

And I repent of those things & I ask for forgiveness

***But Lord, what can I do today,
to start being the leader you've called me to be?***

***What can I do from this day forward
for those who are following me?***

If that is your heart today,

God has summarized what he requires of you;

- 1) **DO** what is **RIGHT**
 - 2) Love **MERCY**
 - 3) **Walk HUMBLY** with your God
-
-

God knows, we **all** have **REGRETS** and **REMORSE**
from **mistakes** and **poor decisions** of our **past**

& the **ENEMY USES** – Our **Regrets** & **Remorse**
to **KEEP US** – **Defeated**
to **KEEP US** – from **doing** what **God calls us to DO**

But - throughout the **Bible**,
God has **one message** about our **past**

His message is **REPENT**, **Turn** from your **mistakes** and **sin**,
and **ask** for **Forgiveness**

And turn TO GOD - and to God's ways, starting today

& the Lord has already told you what is GOOD,
throughout His Word.

And in Micah 6:8 he tells you - all that is REQUIRED of you,
in order to lead those who are following you

Instead of Living in your Old Life

you can be born again to a new life
of DOING WHAT IS RIGHT.

Instead of Living in your Old Life

you can be born again
to a new life - of LOVING MERCY

Instead of Living in your Old Life

you can be born again
to a new life - of WALKING HUMBLY With God.

WE CAN be freed from THE PRISON
of our own Sin-Nature and the World's ways

WE CAN be Transformed by God and returned
to our rightful place in the battle for those we love

WE CAN put away our old life and be BORN AGAIN
into a new life, by God's grace

NOT by US trying harder, but by having the life of Christ
RULE and REIGN inside of us

Because when **Jesus Christ** truly **takes over** your **life**,
he **brings** the **FULL POWER** of the **Godhead** with him.

Ephesians 1:19–20 (NLT)

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 that raised Christ from the dead . . .

**The same power that raised Jesus from the grave,
CAN LIVE IN YOU – IF you will Receive it, & Walk in it**

**By the Same Power that Raised Jesus from the Grave
You can Do What's Right – According to God's Word**

**By the Same Power that Raised Jesus from the Grave
You can Embrace Mercy**

The word - MERCY - *“faithful, steadfast loving-kindness”*

& that's what we need to show - those following us,

***“faithful, steadfast loving-kindness”* – Hebrew = HESED**

**By the Same Power that Raised Jesus from the Grave
you can walk Humbly With God**

**Humility is the opposite of Pride
& Pride is the root of all sin**

**& if there is one thing that we want
those who are following us to SEE**

it is US - Walking Humbly With God

Men, *there is someone following you*

If you will WALK in these requirements of Micah 6:8

those who are following you

will safely navigate the minefield

that the enemy has set up for them in this world

A long time ago - I taught a Msg for Fathers

called *“Teach Your Children”* - *(been lost in the archives)*

& at the end I played this video *(I can't even find online)*

It was at a Promise Keepers Event

& Dennis Rainey set up 12 huge traps on the stage

Including the biggest large-animal trap made *(4 men to set)*

& they were all SET – Ready to take off a limb

of anyone who wasn't careful enough

& he talked about how Dangerous this world is

for teenagers to navigate on their own

& in the process he SPRUNG a few of these huge traps

(w/ a 2x4) To show the very real danger

Then he brought a dad

& a 13 yr old son on the stage

He put the dad at one end of the traps
& the son at the other

& he explained that he was going to have the dad

TELL the son – HOW to walk thru the traps
(in other words, “*do what I say*”)

& then the dad got REAL NERVOUS

When they asked his son - to take off his shoes
& then BLINDFOLDED him

& so the dad – started to TELL HIM
How to move forward - around the first Trap

When <u>Suddenly</u> – the <u>dad YELLED</u> to His <u>Son</u> <u>FREEZE</u> – <u>DO NOT MOVE</u> – <u>STOP</u> where <u>You're AT</u>

& then the dad – walks across the stage

& tells his son to put both hands
on his shoulders – behind him

& tells him to stay CLOSE - & carefully Follow Me
every step of the way

& all across the stage
the son stepped ONLY where his Dad Stepped

& he easily made it - Thru ALL the TRAPS
(as the *stadium erupted in praise*)

If you are a **FATHER** today – **MAKE SURE**
you are building a **Relationship** with your children

that will enable them - to Put their hands on your shoulders
& **FOLLOW** you closely

Walking the **WAY you Walk**

ONLY in this Way – Can you **LEAD them THRU**
the **Minefield** the enemy has set up for them

WHEREVER you are **Leading**
& **WHOEVER** you are **Leading**

& **TAKE** your **God-Given Responsibility**

to **lead them safely**
Thru the **Enemy's TRAPS** in **this world**

→ → → →

Let's Pray - But, before we do; If you are buried in regret of the sin and mistakes of your past

your only hope is to come humbly to the Lord Jesus, and lay it down, and be forgiven by God who loves you enough to die for you.

If that's you right now, cry out to God.

“God, I’m sorry for my past. I can’t fix it. Lord, the guilt crushes me. Please forgive me. Please cover the sin and the mistakes of the past with your blood. Please receive me as a sinner saved only by grace. Cleanse me of my sin, Lord, and make me ready to follow you.”

And if you've left your position as point man, physically, emotionally, or spiritually,

and you know those who should be following you, are wandering on the minefield alone,

right now, make this commitment to God.

“God, please break the chains of my bondage, Lord. I confess my sin; I repent of my sin. Please give me the power to be free from the bondage of my sin. Please give me new life, and new hope, and the power to follow you. And Lord, I commit, to get back on the battlefield.”