

### Life on Mission #3: “Come Follow Me”

*I had a farmer in Alabama who said to me, “I am getting 50 cents on the dollar supporting the Jesus Film overseas. Why are we spending all this money on church?” I asked him, “You raise cows, right? Does it cost more to have a cow or to raise a cow?” To which he responded, “Oh, it costs a LOT MORE to raise one!” I said, “Well, there’s your answer!”*

*Let’s hear from a famous disciple-maker:*

**PLAY** You Tube Video: “Master Yoda Quote [TRY] | Star Wars V - the Empire Strikes Back”

*Lessons from Yoda [from significant quotes]:*

- 1. Listen to wise leaders: “Hear you nothing that I say?”*
- 2. “You must unlearn what you have learned!”*
- 3. “No...TRY NOT! DO...or DO NOT; there is NO TRY”*

*A great disciple-making Pastor Bob Thune preached at Church 212<sup>o</sup>. He asked, “How’s Business.” Pastor Bob’s (and our) Scriptural Text: “He [Jesus] told his disciples, ‘I have been given all authority in heaven and earth. Therefore go and make disciples in all the nations, <sup>[b]</sup> baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and then teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you; and be sure of this—that I am with you always, even to the end of the world’.” (Matthew 28:18-20 TLB)*

*He reminded us that “Going, baptizing, teaching” are three important components to disciple-making.*

**Christian disciple defined:** a dedicated follower of Jesus; follow His teachings; a learner or disciplined one.

*“John was there again with two of his disciples. He saw Jesus walking by. John said, ‘Look! The Lamb of God!’ The two disciples heard him say this. So, they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned around and saw them following. He asked, ‘What do you want?’ They said, ‘Rabbi, where are you staying?’ Rabbi means Teacher. ‘Come’, he replied. ‘You will see.’*

So, they went and saw where he was staying. *They spent the rest of the day with him*” (John 1:35 - 39 NIRV)

### Marks of a Disciple of Jesus:

- Discipleship begins when we acknowledge HIM AS THE LAMB OF GOD
- Discipleship continues when we agree to FOLLOW HIM
- Discipleship accelerates when we accept HIM AS TEACHER
- Discipleship enriches us when we go after HIM JUST TO SPEND TIME WITH HIM

*“He [Jesus] climbed a mountain and invited those he wanted with him. They climbed together...The plan was that they would be with him, and he would send them out to proclaim the Word” (Mark 3:13-14 MSG).*

Jesus, not only commissioned US to make Disciples, HE also practiced Discipleship when he said, "Follow me...".

### His call to be a disciple included:

1. He calls us to be fishers of men
2. He calls us to self-denial
3. He calls us to leave distractions AND excuses behind
4. He calls us out of darkness and into His Light
5. He calls us to serve Him and serve others
6. He calls us to follow His Voice: The Voice of our Shepherd

Jesus' Call to Us Today: *“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”*

### Questions:

1. *To whom does Jesus call?*
2. *What three actions does He ask us take?*
3. *What is the One we've been asked to follow like?*
4. *What are the benefits of being a follower of Jesus?*

*What if I've followed BUT I failed? Remember Peter's re-invitation: “Follow Me...You Follow Me” (John 21:15 - 22)*

## **Supporting SCRIPTURE REFERENCES for further study:**

### **From Matthew's Gospel:**

Fishers of men 4:19; Dead bury the dead 8:22; He followed Him 9:9;  
Take up your cross 16:24; Rich ruler "follow me" 19:21

### **From Mark's Gospel:**

Fishers of men 1:17; Levi [Matthew] followed Him 2:14; Deny yourself,  
take up your cross 8:34; Rich young ruler 10:21

### **From Luke's Gospel:**

Levi Follow me 5:27; Deny self 9:23; Excuses 9:57-62; Rich young ruler  
18:22

### **From John's Gospel:**

Philip/Nathaniel 1:43; No darkness 8:12; follow not a stranger but  
follows My voice 10:5, 27; Serves me 12:26; When Peter denied Jesus, He  
restored with a reaffirmation of Peter's call to "follow me" 21:18-22