

Follow Me

December 4, 2022

INTRODUCTION

Many of us in this room have been church-ed—not discipled. And see, the danger of being church-ed and not discipled is that you can be very church-ed and going to hell.

Jesus never said, “go to church.” He said, “Follow Me.”

“Follow Me”

This simple command—invitation really—is one that Jesus gave more than any other it seems.

- Jesus and Phillip (John 1:43)
- Peter and Andrew (Matthew 4:19)
- Matthew (Matthew 9:9; Mark 2:14; Luke 5:27)
- Disciples (Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:23)
- Rich young ruler (Matthew 19:21; Mark 10:21; Luke 18:22)
- His “sheep” (John 10:27)—*My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.*
- Peter (John 21:19, 22)

Follow Me meant more than just following around of course. It meant following in His footsteps...

Mathetes—comes from *Math*, “the mental effort to think something through”. So, by extension, this means a disciple is a learner. As such, when we say that someone is a disciple of Jesus, we mean someone who have carefully examined who Jesus is, His teachings, His claims, and has come to the conclusion that He is in fact the Son of God and therefore worthy of giving Him their full allegiance. Not only that, someone who is willing to completely pattern their lives after His—their words, their actions, their attitudes.

“Follow Me” (Matthew 4:19) to “Imitate Me” (1 Corinthians 11:1)

Again, are you a follower of Jesus Christ? Notice, I did not ask, “do you believe in Jesus Christ?” Or, “have you asked in Jesus in your heart?” Or, “have you accepted Christ as your Savior?” Or, “have you been baptized?” Or “Do you go to church? Read your Bible? Go to youth group?”

Remember... many of us have been church-ed, not discipled. And the scary thing about being church-ed is that you can be very, very church-ed and going to hell.

Matthew 7: 19-21

²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

In closing I want to give several appeals to different groups this morning:

- Some of you are not believers and you know it—Let today be the day of your salvation!
- Some of you think you are saved, and you're not
- Some of you are in fact saved, but you're still a spiritual baby and it's time to grow up
 - In 1 Corinthians 3:2— *I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready.*
- Some of you are saved, but you're in a season that you have allowed the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of wealth to choke out all the good fruit (Mark 4:18-19)
- Some of you are saved, but you've allowed your spiritual fervor to die. You've not fanned into flame the gift that is in you (Romans 12:11; 2 Timothy 1:6)
- Some of you are ready—you just don't know what to do...

If you would like to be intentionally disciplined?. Become a disciple-maker?

Email me @ PastorJim@alliancechurch.com

Call or Text me @ 717-413-1927

Questions for Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

1. Do you think you have been more "churched" or "discipled"?
2. Why is it very possible for very "churched" people to actually not be saved at all?
3. What is the evidence of someone who has been truly born again?
4. What is your current "hunger" level to become a disciple who makes disciples? If it is not strong, why do you think?
5. What is your "next step"?