

## Follow Me Follow by Committing

Following Jesus means not **making excuses or saying "But First...."**

*Luke 9:57-62 As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." 58 Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." 59 He said to another man, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." 60 Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." 61 Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family." 62 Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."*

Following Jesus means **reordering my priorities.**

*Luke 14:25-26 Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple."*

*Matthew 10:37 "Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."*

Following Jesus means **redefining my identity.**

*Luke 9:23 Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."*

Following Jesus means learning to **say No to me so I can say Yes to Him.**

Salvation is **free** but following Christ **demands all of me.**

Salvation **costs me nothing** but following Christ **will cost me something.**

Consumer - In it for what I can get out of it.

Follower - In it for what I can do to give God glory.

Following Jesus will at times **feel like a death.**

Following Jesus means I can't **buy in without counting the cost and selling out.**

*Luke 14:27-33 And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. 28 "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? 29 For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, 30 saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.' 31 "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? 32 If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. 33 In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.*

Following Jesus means I am willing to **lose now in order to gain greater later.**

*Luke 9:24-25 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. 25 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?*

*Hebrews 11:24-26 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. 25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. 26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.*

### **Additional Study on Eternal Rewards**

Monday      1 Corinthians 3:11-14, Matthew 5:12

Tuesday      Luke 6:23, Revelation 22:12

Wednesday Matthew 16:27, Daniel 12:3

Thursday Matthew 25:20-23, 2 Corinthians 9:6

Friday Matthew 5:10-12, Luke 6:22-23