

Follow Jesus

“God of the Movement” Series – Part 03

Connect: Imagine being stranded on a deserted island and you can only have one of the following individuals stranded with you: an experienced seaman, a science professor, or a millionaire. Who would you choose and why?

HOOK: I, (Pastor Danny), remember a time when a group from our church took some youth to an amusement park 150 miles from home. The number of students and sponsors required us to travel in three vehicles. After a tiring day, it was time to head home and to our delight, one of our drivers stated he knew a short-cut. The route was unknown to myself and the other driver, but the plan was to simply follow him home with being the last car in our small convoy. About 25 miles from home, all three vehicles pulled into an unknown residential driveway. Not knowing why, I got out of my car to find out why this unexpected stop. It was then, we discovered that along our journey home, we had lost sight of our lead driver and instead had been following a complete stranger to his home...not ours!

Can you recount a time when you followed the leadership or direction of the wrong person(s)? In what ways did you pay a price for the error?

In our third lesson in the “*God of the Movement*” series, Pastor Brandon encouraged us to “*Follow the Cloud*”...the Old Testament wilderness cloud that represented the Presence of God before the children of Israel. We were challenged to actively pursue the God who is always pursuing us.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we read of an individual who expressed interest in following Christ. His pursuit of God was soon deferred. After witnessing the conversation between this individual and Jesus, one of the disciples noted that they had been following Christ and he wondered, “What’s in it for us”? Let read the Biblical account and discuss what it means to follow Christ.

BOOK: Matthew 19:16-30

Mat 19:16 And behold, a man came up to him, saying, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?"

Mat 19:17 And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments."

Mat 19:18 He said to him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness,

Mat 19:19 Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Mat 19:20 The young man said to him, "All these I have kept. What do I still lack?"

Mat 19:21 Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."

Mat 19:22 When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Mat 19:23 And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven.

Mat 19:24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God."

Mat 19:25 When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?"

Mat 19:26 But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Mat 19:27 Then Peter said in reply, "See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?"

Mat 19:28 Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Mat 19:29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life.

Mat 19:30 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

LOOK:

1. What did Jesus mean when He stated, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me"?
2. In what ways had the disciples demonstrated that they were obedient to these instructions?
3. Is forsaking all just for the super-committed or is it the requirement for every believer? What things should we be willing to forsake so that we might follow Christ?
4. What blessings are promised to those who follow Christ?
5. In Mark's account of this story, he records this statement: *"Yes," Jesus replied, "and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or property, for My sake and for the Good News, will receive **now** in return a hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and property—along with persecution.*
Mark 10:29-30

In this life, NOW, how are we blessed? How are we blessed in eternity?

Along with our blessings, what else are we promised when we follow Christ?

6. How can we extricate ourselves from the materialism that surrounds us? How can we know when we give enough?

TOOK:

In what area(s) of your life do you find it difficult to follow God?

Darrell Bock (Luke [Baker], 2:1492) observes, *"The passage asks readers to reflect on their choices. Do they rely on themselves and their possessions or do they trust God?"* Consider the choices that you have made recently. Do they reflect that you follow and trust God or do they reflect self-reliance?