A Look in the Mirror — 4

"Following Jesus"

If you are like me and you grew up around Christians or church people, you certainly heard the words "follow Jesus". That phrase would actually mean "accept Christ as your Savior" or "become a believer".

"Follow" in the Greek has two meanings:

- 1) "To accompany a companion"; "To be on the road going the same way with someone"
 "Come" = "Follow"
- 2) "Come to Me"; "Get behind Me" ("at my back"); "Get ready to go"

	Then Jesus said to Simon Peter and Andrew, "FOLLOW Me, and I will make you fishers of men." They immediately left their nets and FOLLOWED Him.
Matthew 4:21-22	Going on from there, He saw James & John Zebedee. He called them; they immediately left the boat and
	FOLLOWED Him.
Mark 1:20	He called to James and John Zebedee; they left their father in the boat, and went AFTER Him.
John 1:40	Andrew heard John the Baptizer announce Jesus approaching: Andrew FOLLOWED Jesus.
John 1:43	The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee; He found Philip and said, "FOLLOW Me."
1. Matt. 4:19	Jesus told Andrew & Peter to follow Him. Did they follow? _Yes _No
2. Matt. 4:2:	1-22 Jesus told James & John to follow Him? Did they?Yes _No
3. Mark 1:20	This is Mark's version of James & John. Did they follow? _Yes _No
4. John 1:40	Andrew heard about & saw Jesus. Did he follow?Yes _No
5. John 1:43	Who did Jesus call in this verse?

Let's look at the meaning of "follow" again.

- Meaning #1 = "I have made some tough decisions in following you. I gave up my work; I am not
 totally sure that I am doing the right thing, but I am curious about the things you say. I am going
 to travel with you for a while and see how things work out. I like you; we can be friends and
 associates. Possibly, you will help to change the government, taxation, and our national future."
 (Uncertain following)
- Meaning #2 = "I have been waiting for you my whole life. I know you are the Messiah, the
 Deliverer from the evil around me and the evil inside me. You have the words of eternal life. There
 is no doubt that love me and that you are the answer to life. My meaning in my life comes from
 you, and with my whole heart, soul, mind, and strength, I will give my all for you."
 (Confident following)

6. When Jesus a	sked Andrew & Pete	er to follow him in <u>Matthew 4:19</u> , wh	ich meaning of	
the word "follo	ow" do you think Jes	sus used?Meaning #1Meani	ng #2	
7. When all the c	other verses tell us	that the disciples immediately "follo	wed" the	
		as used?Meaning #1Meani		
8. Is it not huma	n nature that we be	lieve in something or follow somethi	ng, but not	
with our whole	e heart, mind, soul, a	and strength?	YesNo	
Meaning #1 says, "I don't and I am not going to g		ut I am willing to go along; I don't agree this new experience.	with everything	
Meaning #2 says, "I don't I know I need you, Lord		ut I will trust you; I am not sure what 1	don't know, but	
SOME VERSES SHOWING	US MEANING #2			
		His disciples) to Himself, He said, "Whoever desir	res to <u>COME AFTER</u>	
	ny himself, and take up his c mes & John; immediately, th	rross, and FOLLOW Me. hey left their boat and FOLLOWED Jesus.		
0 44 1.0.24	NAVI I II II			
9. Mark 8:34		ee parts of following Jesus?		
	•			
	3)			
10. Matt. 4:21	Who are the two disciples that responded with meaning #2?			
	1)	2)		
Notice this verse: Luke	14:27 Whoever doe Disciple.	s not bear his cross and come after Me	cannot be My	
weak; some are eager and	hungry; some are hesit	of all kinds of believers; some are strong. tant & suspicious; some are healthy in the DISCIPLES WERE THE SAME KIND OF P	eir hearts; some	
11. Some of us ar	e ready to accept Go	od in our lives & then move on. Agree	e? _Yes_No	
12. Some of us are	e not sure what we v	want and we move carefully. Agree?	_Yes _No	
13. Some of us are	e not ready to let G	od run our lives & clean house. Agree	e? _Yes _No	
14. Some of us kn	ow God is the answe	r right away & we decide. Agree?	_Yes _No	
15. Following God	is a step of faith, m	aybe even a risk. Would you agree?	_Yes _No	
16. Following God	with "meaning #1" s	hows you are searching & growing.	_Yes _No	
17. Followina God	with "meaning #2" c	does not make you better than other	s. Yes No	

Meaning #1 Meaning #2	"Lord, this is all new to me but I want You in my life. Thank You for being patient with me; I don't know if I can make it all the way; I don't know if I can take the hassles I am going to face. I am afraid and feel like a failure." "Lord, I can do all things that you expect from me through the power & strength That you provide for me."
18. Wha	t kind of condition is your "following the Lord" in?
19. Wou	ld this include: (Check off what you agree with)
a	Praying to the Lord each day whether you need anything or not.
b	Telling the Lord you love Him every day whether you want to or not.
c	Thanking the Lord for what He's doing in your life whether you agree or not.
d	Complaining to the Lord about all the stuff you are sick of.
	Forgiving somebody who has really hurt you (& maybe on purpose).
	Reading the Bible every day even when you do not have time.
_	Confessing to God the crummy decisions you have made today.
	Calling someone on the phone (or letter) to just check in.
	Ignoring the mean & nasty words that were directed at you today.
•	Hugging your loved one or close friend or neighbor.
	Agreeing with God that His way is the right way.
	Sharing your personal life journey with someone who is struggling. Taking a personal wound and ask God to make it a strength.
	THE LORD = LIVING THE LORD = LOVING THE LORD = OBEYING THE ERVING THE LORD = HONORING THE LORD = WORSHIPPING THE LORD
	us = get in line behind Him, allow Him to be first in line, trust Him to lead
	ght direction.
20. Follo	w after what:
a. R	omans 14:19
b. 1	Corinthians 14:1
c. 1	Thessalonians 5:15
	Timothy 6:11
e. H	lebrews 12:14