

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"**

Matthew 4:19 *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. 4:21-22** 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 asked Andrew & Peter to follow him in Matthew 4:19, which meaning of the word "follow" do you think Jesus used? Meaning #1 Meaning #2
7. When all the other verses tell us that the disciples immediately "followed" the Lord, which meaning of "follow" was used? Meaning #1 Meaning #2
8. Is it not human nature that we believe in something or follow something, but not with our whole heart, mind, soul, and strength? Yes No

Meaning #1 says, "I don't have all the answers but I am willing to go along; I don't agree with everything and I am not going to give up what I want for this new experience.

Meaning #2 says, "I don't have all the answers but I will trust you; I am not sure what I don't know, but I know I need you, Lord.

SOME VERSES SHOWING US MEANING #2

Mark 8:34 When Jesus had called the people (including His disciples) to Himself, He said, "Whoever desires to COME AFTER Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and FOLLOW Me."

Matthew 4:21 Jesus called James & John; immediately, they left their boat and FOLLOWED Jesus.

9. Mark 8:34 What are the three parts of following Jesus?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

10. Matt. 4:21 Who are the two disciples that responded with meaning #2?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

Notice this verse: Luke 14:27 Whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My Disciple.

The Christian family (the Body of Christ) is full of all kinds of believers; some are strong; some are weak; some are eager and hungry; some are hesitant & suspicious; some are healthy in their hearts; some are wounded and still in a healing process. THE DISCIPLES WERE THE SAME KIND OF PEOPLE.

11. Some of us are ready to accept God in our lives & then move on. Agree? Yes No
12. Some of us are not sure what we want and we move carefully. Agree? Yes No
13. Some of us are not ready to let God run our lives & clean house. Agree? Yes No
14. Some of us know God is the answer right away & we decide. Agree? Yes No
15. Following God is a step of faith, maybe even a risk. Would you agree? Yes No
16. Following God with "meaning #1" shows you are searching & growing. Yes No
17. Following God with "meaning #2" does not make you better than others. Yes No

