

Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said,
“Behold the Lamb of God!”

The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

John 1:35-37

Total Commitment

Review

Questions

Do you remember when you gave your life to Jesus?

Or asked Him into your heart?

Or got saved!

Or... whatever you chose to call it?

What was that like?

What changes did it make in your life?

And for what purpose did Christ redeem you?

What does it mean to follow Jesus?

Questions

Did you choose to follow Jesus?

What did that mean to you?

Is that the same as being His disciple?

Would you call yourself a disciple of Jesus right now?

What does that mean?

How is your life different being His disciple?

In Scripture, what is a disciple?

And, is it the same as being a follower of Jesus?

Disciple

Disciple

A “disciple” (*mathētēs*) is defined as “a learner, pupil, one who seeks to understand.”

However, in the New Testament *mathētēs* means more than a mere pupil or learner. It is an “adherent who accepts the instruction given to him and makes it his rule of life and conduct.”

Based on this Biblical definition, are you a disciple of Jesus? And how would someone know you were?

A “Follower” or “Follow Me”

A “Follower” or “Follow Me”

Sometimes, initially, Jesus asked individuals to
“Follow Me.”

What does that mean to “follow” Jesus?

Is that something different than being a disciple?

And, if so, is it greater or less than being a disciple?

Does it actually involve physically moving and literally following Jesus wherever He went to minister?

Or is it more of a mental thing?

A “Follower” or “Follow Me”

Then He said to them (Simon and Andrew),
“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

Mathew 4:19

Did they assume this was a mental, theological,
non-evasive following of Jesus like we do today?

They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

Matthew 4:20

A “Follower” or “Follow Me”

But Jesus said to him, “**Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.**”

Matthew 8:22

Do you remember the context of this statement?

Was this a mental following or a physical one?

What is the message here?

A “Follower” or “Follow Me”

As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, **“Follow Me.” So he arose and followed Him.**

Matthew 9:9

What happened here?

Did Matthew become a silent follower of Jesus?

Did his commitment to Jesus cost him anything?

What has your commitment to Him cost you?

A “Follower” or “Follow Me”

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

Matthew 16:24

What does this mean?

Are we to take this literally?

Or does it mean something else?

And, if so, what else does it mean?

A “Follower” or “Follow Me”

Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

Matthew 19:21

Remember the context?

Do you want to be perfect or complete?

Do you want what the Lord promised this man?

And, if so, what does that mean for us today?

A “Follower” or “Follow Me”

The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, “Follow Me.”

John 1:43

Where did Jesus want Philip to follow Him to?

What if Philip had other things to do?

What does this statement mean?

Do you see a pattern here?

And how does it line up with Christianity today?

A “Follower” or “Follow Me”

“If anyone serves Me, (then) let him follow Me;
and where I am, there My servant will be also.

If anyone serves Me,
(then) him My Father will honor.”

John 12:26

Do you remember the context of this statement?

Note, where Jesus is, His disciple will be.

What does that say about you and me today?

A “Follower” or “Follow Me”

Jesus has followers and disciples.

John the Baptist had followers and disciples.

What does that mean?

Were the disciples of John different than
the disciples of Jesus?

Were there different requirements for John’s disciples
than for the disciples of Jesus?

A “Follower” or “Follow Me”

Jesus has followers and disciples.

John the Baptist had followers and disciples.

What happened to the disciples of John when he said,
“Behold, the Lamb of God”?

Did they follow Jesus?

Or were they still committed to John the Baptist?

And, if so, what did John do about that?

Total Commitment

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.’ I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water.”

John 1:29:31

Total Commitment

And John bore witness, saying, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.”

John 1:32-34

Total Commitment

If you were a disciple of John the Baptist and heard him say these words about Jesus, what would you have done?

And why were you a disciple of John in the first place?

What was it about his message that drew you to him?

Was his message now complete?

Was there any reason to remain a disciple of John?

And why didn't John follow Jesus at this point?

Total Commitment

What do you think John and his disciples talked about that night after seeing Jesus?

Do you think John spoke on the theme, “He must increase, but I must decrease”? (John 3:30).

If you were a disciple of John the Baptist, what would you be thinking?

Would you believe the words John spoke about Jesus?

Or would you think he was somehow mistaken?

Total Commitment

After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He remained with them and baptized. Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there. And they came and were baptized. For John had not yet been thrown into prison.

Then there arose a dispute between some of **John's disciples** and the Jews about purification.

John 3:22-25

Total Commitment

Read the rest of this chapter.

Do you see what a powerful testimony it is to the Lordship of Jesus Christ?

Do you think those still following John continued to follow John, or did they begin to follow Jesus?

And, if not, why were they still following John?

And again, why didn't John immediately begin following Jesus as one of His disciples?

Why did John continue to baptize?

Total Commitment

Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that **Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John** (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples), He left Judea and departed again to Galilee.

John 4:1-3

Why didn't they join forces?

Why didn't John follow Jesus like his disciples did?

Total Commitment

Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying,
“Why do we and the Pharisees fast often,
but Your disciples do not fast?”

Matthew 9:4

Note this distinction between the disciples of
John the Baptist and the disciples of Jesus?

Can you feel the tension between the two groups?

Why do you think that is?

Total Commitment

Then the disciples of John reported to him (John) concerning all these things. And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to Jesus, saying, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?”

Luke 7:18-19

John is now in prison and still has faithful disciples.

And, at this point, they are not following Jesus.

Did you ever wonder why?

Total Commitment

Let's go back to our text.

Total Commitment

And looking at Jesus as He walked, he (John the Baptist) said, “Behold the Lamb of God!”

John 1:36

This is the same statement made the day before. But for some reason, it now resonated with two of John’s disciples – Andrew and John the Apostle. Did others hear these words of John the Baptist? Or was it only Andrew and John?

Total Commitment

The two disciples heard him speak,
and they followed Jesus.

John 1:37

Or did that moment of total commitment come later?

Is it the same way with us?

Do we come to a point of salvation and then later to a life of full commitment and reckless abandon to Him?

Total Commitment

The two disciples heard him speak,
and they followed Jesus.

John 1:37

Has that happened to you?

Or are you still at the point of salvation but not full
consecration to Him?

Are there parts of your life you are still
holding back from Him?

Total Commitment

The two disciples heard him speak,
and they followed Jesus.

John 1:37

Do you fully know that Jesus is the Son of God,
yet remain a disciple of John the Baptist because it is
comfortable, reasonable, and doesn't demand you to
give up all the comforts of your current life?

Is it a safer choice?

Total Commitment

And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, “**Follow Me**, and I will make you fishers of men.”

They immediately left their nets and followed Him.”

Matthew 4:18-20

Their response was total and immediate.

Total Commitment

Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. **He called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.”**

Matthew 4:21-22

Their response was also total and immediate. And it separated them from their former way of life.

Total Commitment

As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, **“Follow Me.” So he arose and followed Him.**

Matthew 9:9

What did this action of Matthew cost him?

What has following Christ cost you?

Total Commitment

Then He said to another, “**Follow Me.**” But he said,
“**Lord, let me first go and bury my father.**”

Jesus said to him, “**Let the dead bury their own dead,
but you go and preach the kingdom of God.**”

Luke 9:59-60

Do you know what the phrase, “let me first go and
bury my father” meant in their culture?

What was this man saying to the invitation of Jesus?

Total Commitment

And another also said, “Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.” But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Luke 9:61-62

What is Jesus saying to this individual, and to each of us?

Total Commitment

And don't forget about the early church in Acts 2.
Or their unwavering commitment to spread His Word
over the inhabited world.

Or how He commanded us to love Him more than
everything else we love on earth – even our own
spouse and children and our own lives.

Is this the kind of total commitment He honors?

And, if so, is it worth it in the end?

Total Commitment

Now great multitudes went with Him.

And He turned and said to them,

“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”

Luke 14:25-27

Based on this, are you a disciple of Jesus?

Total Commitment

“For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it— lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’”

Luke 14:28-30

Counting the costs of discipleship – Example One.

Total Commitment

“Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?”

Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace.”

Luke 14:31-32

Counting the costs of discipleship – Example Two.

Total Commitment

“So likewise, whoever of (personal) you does not forsake (*apotássō* – to renounce, dismiss, bid farewell, to put something aside to prevent it from being a hinderance or gaining excessive control) all that he (what) has cannot be My disciple.”

Luke 14:31-32

Counting the costs of discipleship – Summary Statement.

Total Commitment

And how do we do that?

Total Commitment

“Jesus taught that your highest priority must be your relationship with Him. If anything (good or bad) detracts you from that relationship, that activity is not from God. God will not ask you to do something that hinders your relationship with Christ.”

Henry Blackaby

Total Commitment

“If I am going to know who Jesus is, I must obey Him. The majority of us don't know Jesus because we have not the remotest intention of obeying Him.”

Oswald Chambers

Total Commitment

“What's closest to your heart is what you talk about,
and if God is close to your heart,
you'll talk about Him.”

“It is dangerous to be so busy that you have
no time to wait on God.”

A.W. Tozer

