

Back to Basics!

Part 9: "Why Follow In His Steps?"

"Do I truly know what it means to call myself a follower of Jesus?"

After reading the book, we have a little better idea... And for some this is a moment of destiny in your Christian experience!

"I won't do anything until I ask what He would do with my life and situations!"

Going to need help... *From the Word of God to know what that is... 2Pet1.3,4 "It is the lamp for our feet..." Ps119.105 From the Holy Spirit... J14.26 "He will guide you into all truth... J16.13 From our brothers and sisters... E4.25 Must be the truth, spoken in love. E4.15 Cannot be indulgent/deceptive. Gal2.11 And every counsel filtered in prayer and distilled into a firm conviction!*

Caveat... Not everyone will come to the same conclusions you do or agree with you. "There is safety in a multitude of counselors" – but there is assurance in a word from the Lord! **Not everyone you talk to will be in the same place you are at the same time!** Many answers you receive will be "according to your faith!" *May find yourself saying, 'Though none go with me, still I will follow!'*

Once we have asked, "is this in accordance with the spirit and teachings of Jesus...?" Once we are convinced that "this is what Jesus would do" if He was living my life... Then we must move swiftly to do it!

But why would any one of us be willing to put ourselves to this radical test?

Why Risk?

Because we were actually created to walk in step with God! *We're just trying to get "home!"* Laying aside the weights of sin that keep tripping us up! **Heb 12.1 2Cor7.1** Getting untangled from the affairs of this life! **2Tim 2.4 Mark 4.19** Seeking Him first... **Mt 6.33**

No better model to follow than Jesus who lived the design of His Father!

Because Jesus made it possible, again! *We just need to follow Him in!* Jesus, as the Way, opened the way to God "by blotting out our sins that stood against us and separated us!" **Col 2.14** He is the One "that is truthful, teaching the way of God in truth!" **Mt22.16** "Being made free from sin, you have become servants to God, with the fruit of holiness and everlasting life. **R6.22**

Because the world is full of "Jack Manning's" asking the question – do you know what it means? *Some passing out of sight/passing away without a response!* "It means we offer comfort in distress, healing in sickness, help in needs... "It means connection in the chaos, instruction and correction and equipping for the times ahead... All the things Jesus bro't to the table!

Because there's a blight coming on the world called the great Christian apostasy... It is prior to the coming of Jesus... and the revelation of the "man of sin!" But those events are not the biggest dangers we face... it's how we get there...

The real danger's...

- 1. The hearts of men that grow cold leaving them open to great compromise... and falling away!**
- 2. The revelation of the hidden sin in men... opening them to Man of Sin...**
- 3. The influences that guide us into error, delusion, infidelity...**
- 4. Denying the influences that make us faithful, sturdy, and impenetrable!**
- 5. People who call themselves believers who are not alert... not serving...** Broken into, cut off, hypo/hyper-critical.
- 6. Being the ones who are eating and drinking and playing...** Cynical about the return of the Lord.

7. ***Being confused in their thinking about life/purpose...*** Trapped by their own lusts... they “excuse” themselves from the calling...

That’s what the push to “walk in His Steps” is all about: to be like Him...

Who when tried by sin, sinned not... but glorified God with His life!

Hopefully we have a better understanding of ourselves, our destiny, and our Church...

Our Mission...

Is not to be ascetics: self-denying for the pride of it... Look at my suffering and austerity! ***Is to not be hedonists:*** self-indulging for the pride of it... Look at my blessing and bounty! Life does not consist in the abundance of things that a man possesses... ***Is to live in the reality that God gives us everything richly to enjoy and yet we need none of it if we have Him!***

Is to live like He did... Not poorly, deprived of life... nor richly, *adorned with everything, deprived of nothing...* ***Having everything we need provided by God at the moment we need it...*** Because we are seeking Him first! Content in everything worldly to be free for the pursuit of the other-world!

“Intelligent unselfishness has to be better than unintelligent selfishness!”

So, what would Jesus do with your life? How would it be different from what it is now? What steps do you need to take to follow in His?