

FOLLOWING JESUS

Int.

1. Aim: To show the meaning of following Jesus by discussing the song "Where He Leads Me".
2. One purpose of singing is to teach
 - a. Eph. 5:19 "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;"
 - b. Col. 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."
3. Song "Where He Leads Me I Will Follow" # 876 in "Songs of Faith and Praise"
 - a. Calls for total commitment
 - b. Teaching us that We are to Follow Jesus
 - c. Jesus taught us to follow him - 18 times "follow me" in Matt. - John Mark 2:14
 - d. N.T. examples
 - i. John 12:26 "If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will [my] Father honour."
 - ii. 1 Pet. 2:21 "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:"
4. Lk. 9:57-62
 - a. Man said he would follow Jesus
 - b. Jesus explains that it will not be easy !

Discussion**I. Verse 1 "I CAN HEAR MY SAVIOR CALLING"**

- A. Calls through the word - "I Can Hear My Saviour Calling"
1. 2 Thes. 2:14 "Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."
 2. John 6:44-45 v. 45 "It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me."
 - a. Isa. 54:13 and Jer. 31:34
 - b. Taught, heard, learned, comes
 3. Rom. 10:13-17
 - a. Call upon the name of the Lord = saved
 - b. Believe, hear, preach, sent to preach
 - c. Faith comes by hearing the word of God - v. 17 "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."
 4. God calls today only through the word
- B. "Take thy cross, and follow, follow me."
1. Luke 14:27 "And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple."
 - a. The cross was used in the 1st century as an instrument of death
 - b. The meaning here is that they would rather die than deny the Lord.
 - c. We must be willing to give up everything to serve Christ.
 - d. That is what it means to bear the cross.

2. Luke 9:23 "And he said to [them] all, If any [man] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."
- a. Voluntary - Christ does not pull us, or force us to serve
 - b. Deny self - seek Christ's will- surrender
 - c. Illustration of the rebellion at Sepphoris
 - d. Take up our Cross daily - not the literal carrying of a cross
 - (1) Work - Worship - teaching
 - (2) Burdens
 - (3) Suffering
 - e. Follow me = continuous action - obeying - daily - not Sunday only

II. Verse 2 "I'LL GO WITH HIM THROUGH THE GARDEN"

- A. "I'll go with Him through the garden
1. Through the garden, not just to the garden,
 2. Peter, James, and John or the other disciples did not do this
 - a. Matt. 26:40 "And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?"
 - b. Matt. 26:56 "But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled."
 3. Follow him in:
 - a. Boldness - Mark 8:38 "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." Ashamed = wrong crowd leads people away

- b. Fervent prayer - Luke 22:44-46
- c. Submission - Luke 22:42 "Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done."

B. "I'll go with him all the way"

1. Stay with Jesus even in the midst of suffering or temptation - hard times
2. Rom. 8:38-39 - nothing without can destroy - but we can wax cold - leave first love "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

III. Verse 3 I'LL GO WITH HIM THROUGH THE JUDGMENT

A. "I'll go with Him thru the judgment"

1. Jesus will be there - Matt. 25:31
2. All of us will be there -
 - a. Mat. 25:32-33 "And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth [his] sheep from the goats: 33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left."
 - b. 2 Cor. 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things [done] in [his] body, according to that he hath done, whether [it be] good or bad."

3. We are singing "I'll go with him thru the judgment," not just to the judgment
 - a. We will be saved if we obey
 - b. 1 John 5:13 "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."
 - c. We can know that we have eternal life - assurance

- B. Everyone will not go with him through the judgment
 1. Disobedient - Matt. 7:21-23 - being Religious is not enough - be right
 2. 2 Thes. 1:7-9 - do not obey
 3. Mt. 25:41 - those who have no compassion for others
 4. Matt. 25:30 - unprofitable servant
 5. Rev. 20:15 - names not in the book of Life "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

IV. Verse 4 "He will give me grace and glory"

- A. "He will give me grace and glory"
 1. Grace is now offered
 - a. Tit. 2:11-12 "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;"
 - b. Eph. 2:8-9 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast."

2. Glory is waiting for those who glory in the gospel now.
 - a. Col. 3:4 "When Christ, [who is] our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."
 - b. Glory - we shall receive the crown of life.
 3. A time is coming when God's grace will not be available.
- B. "And go with me, with me all the way"
1. Matt. 28:20 "...I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (NKJV)
"teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, [even] to the end of the age." Amen.
 2. Heb. 13:5 "[Let your] conversation [be] without covetousness; [and be] content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

V. CHORUS

- A. "Where he leads me I will follow.
1. Where will he lead me?
 - a. Obey the gospel
 - b. Live daily for him - 1 John 5:3 "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."
 - c. Worship him - Luke 6:46
 - d. Study his word - Luke 4:16
 - e. Suffer for him - 1 Pet. 4:16
 - f. Be fishers of men - Matt. 4:19
 - g. Heaven - John 14:1-3

2. Are you following him?

B. "I'll go with Him, with Him all the way."

1. Total commitment

a. Matt. 6:33

b. Lk. 14:33 "So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."

c. Kingdom comes before anything, or anyone else

2. Not:

a. When I get ready and have the time

b. When it's convenient

c. Lk. 9:59-62

(1) I will

(2) After I do these other things

Conclusion

1. Those who will go with Him all the way are those with - Their names written in heaven -

Rev. 21:27 "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither [whatsoever] worketh abomination, or [maketh] a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."

2. Is your name there?

a. Mark. 10:28 "Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee."

b. Mark. 10:29-30 "And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, 30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life."

3. If your life is in harmony with the song ?

- (1) Called through the Gospel
- (2) I'll go with Him through every trial and difficulty
- (3) I'll go all the way through judgment to Heaven
- (4) I understand He now gives Grace
- (5) Chorus - I'll follow where He leads me

4. If not, then make the corrections in your life so you can follow Jesus all the way to heaven.

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Evening March 8, 2009
 Evans Church of Christ
 515 Gibbs Road
 Evans, Ga. 30809
 706-855-1249
 evanscoc@bellsouth.net
www.evansgachurchofchrist.org

Taking up Cross of Christ - Luke 9:23

Jesus well knew what crucifixion meant. When He was a lad of about eleven years of age Judas the Galilean had led a rebellion against Rome. He had raided the royal armory at Sepphoris, which was only four miles from Nazareth. The Roman vengeance was swift and sudden. Sepphoris was burned to the ground; its inhabitants were sold into slavery; and two thousand of the rebels were crucified on crosses which were set in lines along the roadside that they might be a dreadful warning to others tempted to rebel. To take up our cross means to be prepared to face things like that for loyalty to God; it means to be ready to endure the worst that man can do to us for the sake of being true to God.

[The Gospel of Luke by William Barclay p. 122]

Where He Leads Me, I Will Follow

E.W. Blandy, 19th Century

Verse 1

I can hear my Saviour calling,
I can hear my Saviour calling,
I can hear my Saviour calling,
"Take thy cross and follow, follow me".

Verse 2

I'll go with Him thru the garden,
I'll go with Him thru the garden,
I'll go with Him thru the garden,
I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.

Verse 3

I'll go with Him thru the judgment,
I'll go with Him thru the judgment,
I'll go with Him thru the judgment,
I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.

Verse 4

He will give me grace and glory,
He will give me grace and glory,
He will give me grace and glory,
And go with me, with me all the way.

Chorus

Chorus:
Where He leads me I will follow
Where He leads me I will follow
Where He leads me I will follow
I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.