



To Follow Jesus

²⁷ Jesus and his disciples now left Galilee and went out to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. As they were walking along he asked them, “Who do the people think I am? What are they saying about me?” ²⁸ “Some of them think you are John the Baptist,” the disciples replied, “and others say you are Elijah or some other ancient prophet come back to life again.” ²⁹ Then he asked, “Who do you think I am?” Peter replied, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰ But Jesus warned them not to tell anyone! ³¹ Then he began to tell them about the terrible things he would suffer, and that he would be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the other Jewish leaders—and be killed, and that he would rise again three days afterwards. ³² He talked about it quite frankly with them, so Peter took him aside and chided him. “You shouldn’t say things like that,” he told Jesus. ³³ Jesus turned and looked at his disciples and then said to Peter very sternly, “Satan, get behind me! You are looking at this only from a human point of view and not from God’s.” ³⁴ Then he called his disciples and the crowds to come over and listen. “If any of you wants to be my follower,” he told them, “**you must put aside your own pleasures and shoulder your cross, and follow me closely.**” ³⁵ If you insist on saving your life, you will lose it. Only those who throw away their lives for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will ever know what it means to really live. ³⁶ “And how does a man benefit if he gains the whole world and loses his soul in the process?” ³⁷ For is anything worth more than his soul? ³⁸ And anyone who is ashamed of me and my message in these days of unbelief and sin, I, the Messiah, will be ashamed of him when I return in the glory of my Father, with the holy angels.”

Mark 8:27-38 (LB)

I Have Decided To Follow Jesus

²³ Then he said to all, “Anyone who wants to follow me must put aside his own desires and conveniences and carry his cross with him every day and keep close to me!”

Luke 9:23 (LB)

- CROWD: “Come and SEE.”
- CONGREGATION: “Come and JOIN us.”
- COMMITTED: “Come and GROW.”
- CORE: “Come and SERVE.”
- COMMISSIONED: “Come and DIE.”

Taking The Big Leap Of Baptism:

⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Acts 2:41 (NIV)

1. Follow the EXAMPLE modeled by Jesus.

¹ Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:1 (NIV)

⁴ Someone may say, “I am a Christian; I am on my way to heaven; I belong to Christ.” But if he doesn’t do what Christ tells him to, he is a liar.

1 John 2:4 (LB)

2. Demonstrate my CHANGED LIFE.

²¹ In baptism we show that we have been saved from death and doom by the resurrection of Christ; not because our bodies are washed clean by the water but because in being baptized we are turning to God and asking him to cleanse our hearts from sin.

1 Peter 3:21 (LB)

3. Declare my COMMITMENT PUBLICLY.

³² “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. ³³ But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.”

Matthew 10:32-33 (NIV)



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- _____: “Come and ____.”
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