

Followers - cont.

Mark 10:23-31; Luke 8:24-30).

There were **“WHEREEVER YOU GO” FOLLOWERS** (Matthew 8:18-22; Luke 9:57-58) who followed Jesus regardless of where Jesus took them.

There were also **“IN MY NAME” FOLLOWERS** (Mark 9:38-41) who followed Jesus by obeying him and following his authority. Lastly, there were **“KNOWING” FOLLOWERS** (John 10:4-5,27). These people followed Jesus because they really knew Jesus and his word.

Which of the above followers best describes you? As you can see, Jesus will not accept just any follower. Only those who wholly (fully) and truly follow Jesus in their lifetime will be acceptable to him.

The reward for following Jesus in this life, is heaven in the next life (John 8:12; 12:26; Revelation 14:4). Why not start truly following Jesus today? Don't be a false follower, be a true follower! Come follow Jesus with us!

- Chris Reeves -

Word of the Week

- Alleluia -

“Alleluia” (hallelujah) is found only in Revelation 19:1, 3, 4, 6 in the NT. It is an exclamation and it means “praise the Lord”. The Lord God is so great that he should be praised by all of us in our words and deeds daily. It's not just a common or trite religious saying; it's a way of life for us!

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

And he said unto all, If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

- Luke 9:23 -

Jesus made it clear in Luke 9:23 that he wanted all people to follow him (see also Matthew 10:38; 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23; and John 20:21,22). He also left us an example to follow (1 Peter 2:21). There were times when Jesus had many followers, but they were not true followers (Mk.1:36-37; 2:15; 5:24).

However, Jesus was not interested in having mere numbers in a crowd. He made it clear what kind of person he wanted to follow him. He didn't want just any follower, he wanted true followers.

In this article, I want to answer the important question: "How will you follow Jesus?" or "What kind of person will you be to follow Jesus?" Let's examine a few followers of Jesus in the Bible and see which one best describes you and me. There are false followers of Jesus and there are true followers.

FALSE FOLLOWERS

There is the **"SORROWFUL" FOLLOWER** (Matthew 19:16-22). This is the person, like the rich young ruler, who follows Jesus up to a point, then he "draws the line" and stops following. He doesn't followers of Jesus like what Jesus demands of him and so he walks away sorrowful.

There is the **"FILLED" FOLLOWER** (John 6:2,26). These people, like the people whom Jesus fed loaves and fishes, follow Jesus to merely satisfy their physical needs. They follow Jesus to get outward physical help (get a free handout from the church?), but not for what Jesus can do to help their inward soul.

There is the **"BUT FIRST" FOLLOWER** (Luke 9:59-62). This is the person, like the man that Jesus called, who follows Jesus as long as it doesn't conflict with something or someone else that is more important at the moment. He follows Jesus until a better or more exciting offer comes along.

There is the **"AFRAID" FOLLOWER** (Mark 10:32) who follows Jesus fearing for his own life. And, there is also the **"AFAR OFF" FOLLOWER** (Matthew 26:58), like Peter, who doesn't want to get too close to Jesus because he lacks conviction and courage.

It may seem strange, but there is also the **"DISOBEDIENT" FOLLOWER** (Matthew 9:27-31; Mark 1:40-45). This person, like the leper who came to Jesus, obeys and then disobeys. He is so excited and joyous about what Jesus does for him that he ends up disobeying Jesus later because he doesn't think right.

TRUE FOLLOWERS

We certainly do not want to be a false follower. We want to be like those people in the Bible who were true followers of Jesus.

There were **"AT ONCE" FOLLOWERS** (Matthew 4:18-20; 9:9; Mark 1:16-20; 2:13-14). These people always followed Jesus without delay. We need to be like the blind man Bartimaeus who followed Jesus at once (Matthew 20:34).

Others were **"LEFT ALL" FOLLOWERS** like the fishermen Peter, Andrew, James, and John (Luke 5:1-11,27-28). These men followed Jesus and were willing to leave behind all that would hinder their service to Jesus. The rest of the apostles also left all to follow Jesus (Matthew 9:23-20;