

Following Jesus What does it mean?

I. A disciple is summoned by Jesus:

A. Jesus calls us to do what He is doing.

Mark 1:16-17 "As he was going along by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, **"Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men."**

1. The primary purpose of the Church on Earth is to make disciples. **-Matt 28:19-20**
2. Jesus is calling us corporately to be involved in the discipleship making process of the church.

B. Jesus calls us to a new direction and purpose.

Matthew 9:9 As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man called Matthew, sitting in the tax collector's booth; and he said to him, **"Follow me!"**

1. Following Jesus may involve a change of employment or career.

C. Jesus calls us to become like Him.

Matthew 11:28-29 — ²⁸ "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

1. He calls us to rest from the things that are slowly destroying us.
2. He calls us to learn to become like Him.

D. Questions:

1. Have you heard Jesus' calling you to follow Him?
2. Have you verbally committed yourself to follow Jesus?

II. A person accepts the call of Jesus by faith and repentance --

A. We must believe that Jesus is our only Savior, Lord and God.

John 6:29 — "Jesus answered and said to them, *"This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."*

John 3:16-18 — ¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life... ¹⁸ "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

1. If we believe we must follow Christ.
2. To follow Christ, we must leave our own sinful path.

B. We must make a choice to turn from the path of destruction.

Luke 5:31-32 — ³¹ And Jesus answered and said to them, *"It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick. ³² "I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."*

1. True repentance necessitates returning the will of God.
2. True followers will follow Jesus in obedience.

III. A Disciple must count the cost of follow Jesus. --What does it cost to become a disciple of Jesus?

A. It costs **everything** to become a disciple of Jesus.

-Matthew 13:44-46

B. It can cost material security, and family expectations.

-Matthew 8:19-21

C. Following Jesus will cost us even ourself? **-Matthew 16:24-25**

THINK, PRAY and OBEY:

1. Are you a disciple of Jesus Christ?
2. Are you ready to pay the price?
3. Jesus summons you right now to follow Him.

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