

## Following the Lord

There has been a following wave that has taken the internet and the church by storm. People follow people, and those who are followed claim those following to be their followers, sometimes at all costs.

What does the Word teach? Who are we to follow? The Word is clear, the priority of who we follow is none other than the Lord Himself. This trend of following man sometimes above God needs to stop. We are called to follow the Lord, not man.

Mark 1:19-20 When He had gone a little farther from there, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the boat mending their nets. 20 And immediately He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went after Him.

- a) Ministers are followers. They need to focus on following the Lord rather than being followed.

Matthew 14:13 When Jesus heard it, He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself. But when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him on foot from the cities.

Mat 20:29 Now as they went out of Jericho, a great multitude followed Him.

- a) Multitudes following the Lord.

Mat 20:34 So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.

- a) Followed as a result of the miracle of blind eyes being opened.

Luke 5:11 So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

- a) Forsook all and followed Him. To follow the Lord, we need to forsake all. All things need to matter less compared to the Lord.

Luke 9:11 But when the multitudes knew it, they followed Him; and He received them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who had need of healing.

- a) Feeding 5,000—Followed and He received them.

John 6:2 Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased.

**Main Text:** Matthew 4:18-22 And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. 19 Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." 20 They immediately left their nets and followed Him. 21 Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, 22 and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

## Peter

Three accounts write about Peter following the Lord. We are all called to follow the Lord. The question is how closely are we to follow Him? The degree to how closely we follow the Lord is one of the reasons for the success we encounter, the problems we face, and/or the failures we encounter.

How closely Peter followed the Lord could account for some of the mistakes and errors Peter made. We should not allow distance between us and the Lord.

Matthew 26:58 But Peter followed him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end. Mark 14:54 And Peter followed him afar off, even into the palace of the high priest: and he sat with the servants, and warmed himself at the fire.

Luke 22:54 Then took they him, and led him, and brought him into the high priest's house. And Peter followed afar off.

- a) A far off—Peter followed the Lord, a far off, not closely. This was due to fear of persecution and much more. Those who follow the Lord closely will be persecuted. Peter was a beholder, not a participant.
- b) Sat with the wrong people—unbelievers. He was in the wrong company.
- c) He was warming himself with the fire of the enemy. He was enjoying the goodies and comfort of the enemy.

#### Results of following the Lord closely—not far off

Mark 15:41 (Who also, when he was in Galilee, followed him, and ministered unto him;) and many other women which came up with him unto Jerusalem.

- a) Following the Lord leads to ministering to Him.

Luke 9:11 And the people, when they knew it, followed him: and he received them, and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing.

- a) Following the Lord leads to receiving from Him.

Luke 18:43 And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God.

- a) Following the Lord leads to glorifying Him.