

What comes to mind when someone says, I am a follower of Jesus?

Some followed because of popularity

Mat 4:23-25 ESV And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. 24 So **his fame spread** throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. 25 **And great crowds followed** him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

- Some of these stopped following Him when things become difficult Jn 6:66
- The crowd that cried Hosanna when he entered Jerusalem shouted Crucify Him one week later

Some followed because of what He could give them or personal benefit

Joh 6:2-3 ESV And a large crowd was following him, **because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick.** 3 Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples.

Jesus' idea of following is - JUST OUT OF REACH - & linked to a purpose ~ becoming fishers of men

Mat 4:18-22 ESV While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. 19 And he said to them, "**Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.**" 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 21 And 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, and he called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

- **The call to follow forces surrender and faith - & men's hearts sort themselves out - yes or no**

Three marks of a follower - notice how high the bar is - it is easy to follow when there is no demand

Luk 9:57-62 ESV As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." 58 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but **the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.**" 59 To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." 60 And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. **But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.**" 61 Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." 62 Jesus said to him, "**No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back** is fit for the kingdom of God."

- **1) Our Motivation** - We follow for who He is, and what He wants - not what we can gain
- **2) Our Priorities** - Our following is tied to the mission - let the dead bury dead - you've come to life
- **3) Our Commitment** - There is a commitment to finish

What is the ONE THING? - Jesus is putting it out there - but It takes a surrender and a faith

Mar 10:17-22 ESV And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 18 And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. 19 You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'" 20 And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth." 21 **And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."** 22 Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

- **Sorrowful "because he had great possessions" sounds odd - art of trapeze - let go first**
- **In his heart I think he knew that he had forfeited something of such greater value**