

FOLLOWING JESUS THE SON OF GOD



WHO ARE YOU FOLLOWING?

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked,
following the course of this world,
following the prince of the power of the air.

(Ephesians 2:1–2a ESV)

1. To follow Jesus we must first see Jesus for who he is.

- (John 1:35–36 ESV) The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “**Behold, the Lamb of God!**”

A. We must see Jesus to know Jesus.

B. Those who have never seen Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, do not know him

C. So the first step to following Jesus is seeing him for who he truly is—the Christ, the Son of God.

- (John 20:31 ESV) **But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.**

D. Martha, Mark and Paul saw Jesus as the Christ, Son of God, and believed.

i. Martha “got it.”

- (John 11:25–27 ESV) Jesus said to [Martha] her, “I am the resurrection and the life. **Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?**” 27 She said to him, “**Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.**”

ii. Mark “got it” ... So very interesting how Mark begins his gospel.

- (Mark 1:1 ESV) **The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.**

iii. Paul eventually “got it”—Look at his amazing testimony shortly after his conversion.

- (Acts 9:19–20, 22 ESV) And taking food, he [Paul] was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. 20 **And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”** ... 22 But Saul increased all the more in strength, **and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.**

2. Those who see Jesus see the glory of the only Son.

- (John 1:14 ESV) And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, **and we have seen his glory**, glory as of the only Son from the Father, **full of grace and truth.**

A. Only in seeing **the only Son** do we see glory revealed.

B. He is the radiance of the glory of God.

- (Hebrews 1:3a ESV) **He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature.**

C. He is the Lord of glory.

- (1 Corinthians 2:8 ESV) **None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.**

D. He is the King of glory.

- (Psalm 24:7–10 ESV) Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that **the King of glory** may come in. 8 **Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty**, the LORD, mighty in battle! 9 Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, **that the King of glory may come in.** 10 **Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!** Selah

Piercing Question: What does it say about your Jesus if you are willing to give up little or nothing for him? What does it say about your Jesus if he is so **un-glorious** that you can actually fit him into your plans?

3. Seeing Jesus as Scripture presents him **either** promotes allegiance **or** provokes opposition.

A. People will believe and follow Jesus or refuse to believe and oppose him.

- (Matthew 12:30 LSB) **He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters.**
- (Romans 8:7 ESV) **For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God**, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot.
- (James 4:4 ESV) You adulterous people! **Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.**

B. Many who were against him indirectly and unwittingly testified for him by their opposition.

C. Demons opposed Christ but when confronted with Christ seemed unable to restrain their terror and confessed that he was the Son of God.

- (Matthew 8:29 ESV) And behold, they cried out, “**What have you to do with us, O Son of God?**” Have you come here to torment

us before the time?”

- (Mark 3:11–12 ESV) And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, **they fell down before him and cried out, “You are the Son of God.”** 12 And he strictly ordered them not to make him known.

D. The high priest made a fool of himself and through his passionate, hateful efforts to discredit Christ unwittingly provided undeniable testimony that Jesus believed himself to be the Christ, the Son of God.

- ➔ (Matthew 26:63–68 ESV) But Jesus remained silent. **And the high priest said to him, “I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.”** 64 Jesus said to him, **“You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”** 65 **Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy.** 66 What is your judgment?” They answered, “He deserves death.” 67 Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, 68 saying, **“Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?”**
- ➔ (Luke 22:70–71 ESV) So they all said, **“Are you the Son of God, then?”** And he said to them, **“You say that I am.”** 71 Then they said, **“What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips.”**

4. John the Baptist initiates a transition of leadership.

A. John indirectly but clearly signals that it is time for his disciples to follow Jesus the Lamb of God.

- (John 1:35–37 ESV) The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, 36 **and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!”** 37 **The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.**

B. John looked at Jesus as he walked by.

To look ... to perceive with attention; direct one’s gaze towards; to turn one’s eyes on; metaphorically to look at with the mind, to consider.

C. He called his disciples to behold the Lamb of God—to truly see Jesus for who he was.

D. The two disciples heard John and followed Jesus.

Disciple ... μαθητής [mathetes] – a learner, pupil; a student who adheres to (and travels with) a teacher in a pedagogical relationship; especially used of students of spiritual leaders.

To follow ... to travel behind, go after, come after; to follow one who precedes, accompany him; to join one as a disciple, become or be his disciple.

5. Jesus disciples those who follow him.

- (John 1:38–39 ESV) Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, **“What are you seeking?”** And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” 39 He said to them, **“Come and you will see.”** **So they came and saw** where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.

A. Jesus immediately begins discipling those who follow him as he affirms his authoritative role as Rabbi.

B. He began by asking—What are you seeking?

- (Matthew 6:33 ESV) **But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,** and all these things will be added to you.
- (Matthew 7:7–8 ESV) Ask, and it will be given to you; **seek, and you will find;** knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and **the one who seeks finds,** and to the one who knocks it will be opened.
- (Psalm 40:16 ESV) **But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;** may those who love your salvation say continually, “Great is the Lord!”
- (Psalm 105:3–4 ESV) Glory in his holy name; **let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!** 4 **Seek the Lord** and his strength; **seek his presence continually!**

i. **“What are we seeking?”** helps us examine and clarify our motivation.

ii. **What are we finding?** Are we finding the kingdom of God and his righteousness? Are we finding joy? Are we finding his presence?

C. As disciples they knew they needed more time with him so they asked—“Where are you staying?”

i. This is how a disciple learns—he stays close to and spends time with the teacher.

ii. We learn from Jesus and stay close to him when we abide in his word.

- (John 8:31–32 ESV) So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “**If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**”
- iii. When we abide in his word, he frees us from our sin and its influence and power over us.
- (John 8:33–36 ESV) They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. **How is it that you say, ‘You will become free?’**” 34 Jesus answered them, “**Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.**” 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36 **So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.**
- iv. As we follow Jesus we grow in our freedom from sin and the effects it has on our lives mentally, emotionally, physically and spiritually.
- v. And we grow in freedom socially ... the person who constantly lives with drama and dysfunction in his or her life is neither being freed by the truth of God nor assured in life by the presence and peace of the Lord Jesus.
- (Colossians 3:15–16a ESV) **And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,** to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 **Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.**

6. The transition continues and now the followers of Jesus are finding other followers.

- (John 1:40–51 ESV) One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was **Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.** 41 He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “**We have found the Messiah**” (which means **Christ**). 42 He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “**You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas**” (which means **Peter**). 43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. **He found Philip and said to him, ‘Follow me.’** 44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “**We have found him of whom Moses in the**

Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” 46 Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “**Come and see.**” 47 Jesus saw **Nathanael** coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, **in whom there is no deceit!**” 48 Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” 49 **Nathanael answered him, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’** 50 Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” 51 And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

- A. This is all according to plan as John the Baptist, the preparer of the way, must decrease and Jesus, the Way, must increase.
- (John 3:30 ESV) **He must increase, but I must decrease.**
- B. The Lord begins assembling his disciples.
- C. Upon finding and beholding Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, those who followed him began finding others to bring to him.
- D. We see that Jesus planned his route at times with the purpose of finding disciples.
- (John 1:43 ESV) **The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip** and said to him, “Follow me.”
- E. We also see some who in contrast with their religious leaders consulted and believed the Scriptures and were anticipating his coming.
- (John 1:45 ESV) Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “**We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote,** Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”