

BE A PART OF THE CROWD
(Matthew 8:1)

I. We follow Jesus because of who He is.

- A. When celebrities go out they are usually mobbed by people because of who they are.
 - 1. If they want any privacy they have to conceal their identities.
 - 2. Many check into hotels under assumed names.
- B. When Jesus is followed it also is because of who He is.
- C. Jesus is the Son of God, deity in the flesh.
 - 1. Peter made the inspired statement to this effect (Matthew 16:16).
 - 2. John 1:1.
- D. Jesus was a good man.
- E. Jesus was a great teacher.
- F. However, He was more than these things - He was deity (Philippians 2:5).

II. We follow Jesus because of what He did.

- A. Jesus healed sick, cast out demons, raised people from the dead and many other wonderful works.
- B. Jesus taught great sermons and evangelized one on one.
- C. These things are reasons to follow Jesus, but the greatest work that Jesus did was on the cross and in the grave.
- D. It was on the cross that the blood of Jesus was shed (John 19:34)..
 - 1. Only the blood of Jesus can wash away sins (Matthew 26:28; Ephesians 1:7).
 - 2. Without this blood, there could be no hope of the forgiveness of sins.
- E. Rising forth from the grave showed to the world exactly who He was (Acts 17:31; Romans 1:4).
- F. By His work on the cross He took our place and purchased the church (Acts 20:28).
- G. By His coming forth from the grave He conquered death and assured mankind of their future resurrection.

III. We follow Jesus because of what He can do.

- A. Jesus can justify those that come to Him (Romans 5:9).
- B. Jesus can cleanse us from our sins (1 John 1:7).
- C. Jesus gives those that follow Him an abundant life (John 10:10).
- D. Jesus allows us to overcome sin's attacks against us.
 - 1. Romans 7:23-25.
 - 2. There is a battle going on that we fight daily and only Jesus allows us to win the battle against sin.
- E. It will be Jesus that will deliver up the kingdom to the Father (1 Corinthians 15:24).

IV. We follow Jesus because we need Him.

- A. There are certain people we need in our lives.
 - 1. We need our spouses.
 - 2. Children need their parents.

- 3. We need doctors to take care of us.
- 4. We need government to protect us from evildoers.
- B. We need these things but there is one person we need above all others, with whom we cannot live without.
- C. John 14:6.
 - 1. If we want to get to the Father we must go through Jesus.
 - 2. He is the only way that leads to salvation.
- D. As great as man thinks he has become, without Jesus there is no hope of salvation.
 - 1. We have devised different religions.
 - 2. We have devised different plans.
 - 3. We have devised plans that don't include a knowledge of God.
 - 4. All of these fall desperately and miserably short of saving mankind.
- E. Without Jesus there is no hope for mankind.
- V. We follow Jesus because He needs us.**
 - A. Jesus does not need us to sustain His life.
 - B. He does not need us like we need Him.
 - C. He needs us to proclaim His message.
 - 1. He gave us the Great Commission.
 - 2. It is through preaching and teaching that the gospel is to be spread (1 Corinthians 1:21).
 - D. The Lord needs us to carry out His message.
 - 1. He could have chosen some other way.
 - 2. He could have sent the Holy Spirit to whisper in man's ears.
 - 3. He could have done any number of things.
 - 4. What He chose to do was to have men who have been saved go out and teach others so that they can be saved.
 - E. Jesus needs us to preach His message.
- VI. We follow Jesus because others need Him.**
 - A. We need food, shelter and water.
 - B. We need the basic necessities of life.
 - C. But man's greatest need is salvation through Jesus.
 - D. God wants all men to be saved and that salvation is in Christ (Acts 4:12).
 - 1. Our neighbors need to hear this message.
 - 2. People on the other side of the world need to hear this message.
 - E. If Christians refuse to take this message to a lost world, then people will have no hope for salvation.
 - F. You and I meet man's greatest need when we present to them the life of Jesus and His plan for the salvation of mankind.
 - G. This is the greatest love we can have for someone.

From a sermon outline by T.T. Crabtree