

ARE YOU A FOLLOWER? (Matthew 19:16-21)

I. The priority of following Jesus.

- A. In Matthew 8:21 we have recorded for us an with Jesus and an unknown disciple.
- B. The one invited said, "Lord, suffer mt first to go and bury my father."
 - 1. One would think that this is a most important duty of a son and it is.
 - 2. However, most commentators feel that this was said because his father was sick and not then dead.
 - 3. It could be days, weeks or months before he died.
- C. Jesus then says something that some might think callous: "Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead" (Matthew 8:22).
 - 1. Why would Jesus be so callous?
 - 2. The reason is that burying one's father is not wrong, but waiting to follow Jesus is.
 - 3. It is to be the utmost priority we have in life.
- D. It is said of Matthew, when asked by Jesus to follow Him, that he left all (Luke 5:28).
- E. Following Jesus is to be first and foremost in our thoughts and efforts every day.
- F. The reason for this is that by following Him, even in suffering, we are following the One who can heal us from sin (1 Peter 2:21-24).

II. The price of following Jesus.

- A. Someone once said, "Nothing in life is free."
 - 1. While there is no monetary price to be paid for salvation, it still costs.
 - 2. It is a high price that many are not willing to pay.
- B. When Jesus talked with the rich young ruler He told him the cost (Matthew 19:21).
 - 1. That young man had a decision to make.
 - 2. He decided the price was to high (Matthew 19:22).
- C. Jesus informed a potential disciple of the cost of following Him (Luke 9:58).
- D. Our Lord has never hid the price of following Him.
- E. Following Jesus may be at the price of being cut off from family and loved ones (Matthew 10:34-39).
- F. When ever paying a price for something, one has to look at what the item being purchased is worth.
 - 1. There is nothing on the face of the earth as valuable as your soul (Mark 8:36-37).
 - 2. When you fail to pay the price of following Jesus you are saying that your soul is not worth the price it costs to be a follower of Jesus.
 - 3. What you are paying the price for is the salvation of your soul and eternity in heaven with Jesus and all of His followers.

- G. Is that not worth the price of following Jesus?
- III. The protection for those following Jesus.**
 - A. Everyone wants protection for their purchases.
 - B. Who better to protect your purchase than the Creator and Sustainer of life?
 - 1. John 10:27-29.
 - 2. Once the price of following Jesus has been paid, there is no possibility of Jesus turning you out in the cold.
 - 3. He wants you to be saved and has provided everything necessary for you to remain in Him.
 - 4. Peter was inspired to write that if we do certain things we will never fall (2 Peter 1:10),
 - C. Think of the promise from Jesus that the Hebrews writer recorded (13:6).
 - 1. That is a protection plan that will not fail.
 - 2. God is the God that cannot lie (Titus 1:2).
 - D. He has given us everything that we need to protect ourselves along with His providential help (2 Peter 1:3).
 - E. Therefore, the protection for our price of following Jesus cannot be beat.
- IV. The position for those following Jesus.**
 - A. The only way to serve Jesus is to follow Him.
 - B. Matthew 16:24.
 - C. There is no way to be ahead of Jesus and be His follower.
 - 1. Those that want to change His doctrine cannot be His followers.
 - 2. Those that have their own agendas cannot be His followers.
 - D. We must understand He is the Master and we are the servants (John 13:10).
- V. The purpose of following Jesus.**
 - A. Jesus revealed the purpose of following Him to the fishermen He called to be His disciples - "I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19)
 - B. The purpose for His coming was to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10).
 - C. As those that are His followers, we are to do His will, just as He did the will of the Father.
 - D. His purpose is to be our purpose.
 - E. Once we have tasted of the good word of God we should desire for others to taste it as well.
 - 1. There is nothing as sweet as salvation.
 - 2. There is nothing as delicious as freedom from sin.
 - F. When we have tasted it, we should want others to taste it as well.

From an outline by Bobby Liddell