

**Topic:** Follow me!

**Text:** **John 21:19 - 23 (NLT)**

<sup>19</sup>Jesus said this to let him know by what kind of death he would glorify God. Then Jesus told him, "Follow me."

<sup>20</sup>Peter turned around and saw behind them the disciple Jesus loved—the one who had leaned over to Jesus during supper and asked, "Lord, who will betray you?"

<sup>21</sup>Peter asked Jesus, "What about him, Lord?"

**<sup>22</sup>Jesus replied, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? As for you, follow me."**

<sup>23</sup>So the rumor spread among the community of believers that this disciple wouldn't die. But that isn't what Jesus said at all. He only said, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?"

*Breakdown:*

***<sup>22</sup>Jesus replied, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? As for you, follow me."***

- *The basic challenge Jesus gave to Peter and to us—**Follow me**. Following Jesus is not a step. Rather it is a lifelong walk of faith.*
- *"Follow Me" is a present tense imperative meaning "Keep on following." (really, be following) me!" The command from beginning to end it is a following of Jesus.*
- *"Follow Me" means consistent discipleship and steadfast pursuit of Christ.*
- *It means continuing Christ's work in the way he wants it done, not in a way we want it done.*

*It was not the first time Jesus told Peter to follow Him:*

**John 13:36 (NLT)** <sup>36</sup>Simon Peter asked, “Lord, where are you going?”  
And Jesus replied, “You can’t go with me now, ***but you will follow me later.***”

**Matt 4:19 - 20 (NLT)** <sup>19</sup>Jesus called out to them, “***Come, follow me***, and I will show you how to fish for people!” <sup>20</sup>And they left their nets at once and followed him.

**Luke 9:23 (NASB)** <sup>23</sup>And He was saying to *them* all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

**Matt 8:22 (NASB)** <sup>22</sup>But Jesus said\* to him, “***Follow Me***, and allow the dead to bury their own dead.”

Our mistake:

### **1. Following ourselves:**

- After that first great catch of fish, Peter took his eyes off his Lord and looked at *himself*. “Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” (Luke 5:8)

### **2. Following others**

- Why did Peter look away from his Lord and start to look back? He did a foolish thing and asked Jesus, “What shall this man do?” In other words, “Lord, you just told me what will happen to me; now, what will happen to John?” (Remember Lot’s wife. Gen 19)
- Don’t look back, to the side.....stay focused on Jesus!

### **3. Following circumstances**

- When he was walking on the stormy sea with Jesus, Peter looked away from the Lord and began to look at the wind and waves; and immediately he began to sink (Matt. 14:30). It is dangerous to look at the circumstances instead of looking to the Lord.

Our goal:

*Fix our eyes on Jesus!*

**Heb 12:1 - 2 (NASB)** <sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **<sup>2</sup>fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith...**

*Here's what true love looks like:*

- *Jesus had not commanded him to do so,*
- *nor had He even directly addressed him;*
- ***but true love is always occupied with its object,***
- *and all John was interested in was following Jesus.*

**Ruth 1:14 - 18 (NLT)** <sup>14</sup>And again they wept together, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye. But Ruth clung tightly to Naomi.

<sup>15</sup>"Look," Naomi said to her, "your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods. You should do the same."

<sup>16</sup>But Ruth replied, "Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.

<sup>17</sup>Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!"

<sup>18</sup>When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she said nothing more.

**Rom 8:35 - 39 (NLT)** <sup>35</sup>Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death?

<sup>38</sup>And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.

<sup>39</sup>No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Monday Morning Moment:** *I heard a call "Come Follow". That was all.*

**John 8:12** (NIV) "When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." "

### **I Heard His Call...**

I heard a call "Come Follow"  
That was all

Earths Joy grew dim,  
my soul went after him,

I rose and followed-  
that was all...

Will you not follow if you hear his call?

***From: Why revival Tarries by Leonard Ravenhill (\$10.99 Amazon; \$9.99 CBD)***

Among others influenced by Ravenhill were Ravi Zacharias, Tommy Tenney, Charles Stanley, Kieth Green and David Wilkerson.<sup>[3]</sup>

He was a close friend of pastor and writer A. W. Tozer. A few great one-liners:

*"The only reason we don't have revival is because we are willing to live without it!"*

*"Today's church wants to be raptured from responsibility."*

*"If weak in prayer, we are weak everywhere."*

*"Are the things you are living for worth Christ dying for?"*

*"A sinning man stops praying, a praying man stops sinning"*

*"The Church used to be a lifeboat rescuing the perishing. Now she is a cruise ship recruiting the promising."*

*"My main ambition in life is to be on the devil's most wanted list."*

*"If Jesus had preached the same message that ministers preach today, He would never have been crucified."*

*"Entertainment is the devil's substitute for joy"*