

Following In His Steps

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Apr. 28th

Jesus gave the command to *"Follow Me"* 17 times (before His crucifixion).

He repeated it after his resurrection! Jn 21:19,22

Do you think he still expects us to Follow Him? Luke 9:23 *"He said to them all,*

If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. "

1 Peter 2:21 *"hereunto were ye called... that ye should follow his steps..."*

How can we recognize "His Steps"?

➤ We can follow his Instructions. (Map) John 14:15-17, 26; 16:13; Ps. 119:105

➤ We can follow his example! Jn 13:15 ; 1 Pt 2:21 *"Christ also left us an example, that we should follow in his steps."*

Heb 12:1-3 *"run with patience the race that is set before us... Looking unto (Considering) Jesus ... For consider him ..., lest ye be wearied and faint ..."*

Let's consider how Jesus spent his time after his resurrection.

1. First He Appears to Mary Mark 16:9-11; Jn. 20:1-18

A. Why Mary? *"out of whom he had cast out seven devils"*

1) She loved Him. Luke 7:47 *"Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much"*

Is your love for Him proportional to His forgiveness to you?

2) She served Him, while he was living, dying, and even after his death! Luke 24:1-11
Mk. 15:40,41

3) She obeyed. Jn. 14:15 *"If ye love me, keep my commands..."* Mt 28:7; Mk 16:9-11

B. Jesus is a faithful friend, rewarding those who serve him faithfully!

1) John Came to Jesus at Calvary. Jn. 19:26

2) Jesus came to John at Patmos! Rev. 1

2. Appears to 2 discouraged disciples. Lk 24:13-33

Lk 24:32 *"Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?"*

A. Has God ever given you a "holy heartburn?"

B. Jesus meets us in our discouragement and points us toward God's Promises! (Jer. 15:16; Is. 41:10; 43:1-4)

3. Comes to Peter. 1 Cor. 15:5; Lk 24:33-35

A. Notice the angel's specific instructions to the women. Mark 16:7,8 *"Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. go ... tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you"*

B. Even though Peter denied Jesus, Jesus didn't deny Peter another chance.

2 Timothy 2:13

Jesus doesn't easily give up on people, (2 Pt. 3:9) and neither should we!

4. Appears to Disciples. Luke 24:36 *“Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.*

A. He rebuked them. Vs 37-39 *“Why are ye troubled? Why do thoughts arise ...”*

B. He reminds them. Luke 24:44-45 *“These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, ... concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures”*

1) He did this by the Holy Spirit who would *“guide them unto all truth”* Jn 16:13

C. He “inspires” them! In Jn 14:17 He promised *“the Spirit of truth...for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*

In John 20:22 *“he breathed on them, and saith, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:”*

Jn 20:24,25 *“But Thomas...was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples said...
“We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe!”*

“We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe!”

D. He returns for Thomas! Jn 20:26-30 *“Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.”*

1) Jesus knew where they were! (Hiding in fear)

2) Jesus knew how they were! (Confused, doubtful, anxious)

3) Jesus knew what they needed! *“Peace be unto you”* Jn 20:21,27

Conclusion: How can we know what Jesus would do?

By considering what he did do!

1. He encouraged a faithful Mary.
2. He inspired 2 frustrated disciples.
3. He restored a backslidden Peter.
4. He emboldened the fearful apostles.
5. He challenged a doubting Thomas.

Application: Do you know any...

- Faithful followers to encourage?
- Frustrated people to inspire?
- Fallen believers to restore?
- Fearful followers to embolden?
- Faithless “Thomas” to challenge?

1 Peter 2:21 *“For hereunto were ye called:*

because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps”

