

Following In His Steps Part 2

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, May 5th

Jesus consistently invited people to follow him during his ministry. (Mt. 4:19; Mt. 9:9, etc)

He repeated it after his resurrection (Jn 21:19,22) and repeats it still.

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

How can we recognize "His Steps"?

- We can follow his *Instructions*. (Map) *John 10:27; 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."*

Reflection:

Last week we began to consider Jesus' priorities after His resurrection.

1. He encouraged a faithful Mary Mark 16:9-11; Jn. 20:1-18
2. He inspired some 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?"*
3. He restored a backslidden Peter 1 Cor. 15:5; Lk 24:33-35
4. He emboldened the fearful apostles. Jn 20:21 *"Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you."*
5. He challenged a doubting Thomas. Jn 20:26, 27 *"Peace be unto you... be not faithless, but believing"*

Direction:

Jesus told his disciples he'd meet them in Galilee (Mt 28:10) Several weeks went by before Jesus reappeared; and when he did finally appear to them:

6. He reminded the drifting disciples of His priorities. Jn 21

- A. Several of them had gone back to their fishing boats. John 21:3 *"Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They (at least 6 of them) say unto him, We also go with thee. ...; and that night they caught nothing."*
- B. Jesus gave them specific instructions. Jn 21:5-6 *"Then Jesus ...said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes."* Sound familiar? (See Luke 5:4-10)
- C. After they obeyed, they finally recognize Jesus. 21:7 *"It is the Lord!*
 - 1) Peter swims to meet him:" *when Peter heard that it was the Lord, he ... did cast himself into the sea."*
 - 2) Jesus already has breakfast ready for them. *V's 9-12*
- D. After Breakfast, He questions Peter. (3x) *"lovest thou me more than these?"* vs 15,16,17
 - 1) What are the "these" in your life that compete with God's will?
 - 2) Why did he ask 3 times?
 - 3) Notice Jesus' command 15-17 *"Feed my lambs...sheep"*

Jesus is challenging Peter to Realign his priorities and agenda to reflect Christ's!
"lovest thou me more than these?" vs 15,16,17 agapaō: involves unconditional commitment

4) Notice Peter's answer: *"Lord thou knowest that I love thee."* 15,16,17 Phileō: I'm fond of you!

a) Phileo love is about comfort.

b) Agape love is about commitment.

Comfort and commitment are not always synonymous!

Conclusion:

What happens when "commitment" is no longer comfortable?

(The quality/kind of our Love is tested and revealed.)

➤ Many are fond of Jesus, but few are really focused on Him & His agenda.

In Luke 9, Jesus is heading toward Jerusalem and his crucifixion.

1) The Samaritans wouldn't let him pass through their town. *Lk 9:52-54 "when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, And sent messengers before his face: and they went ...into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem."*

When His agenda didn't agree with theirs, They rejected Him!

2) Others wanted to follow him until His agenda became uncomfortable. **Luke 9:57-62**

"as they went in the way, a man said, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. He said ... Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.

And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.

And another said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home.

And Jesus said, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

We cannot really follow Jesus until we deal with this "Me first" tendency! (Gal. 2:20,21)

3) It's hard to surrender our own agendas. (Rich Young Ruler in Mark 10:17-23)

Application:

John 20:30-31 *"Many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book; But these are written, that ye might: believe (Pisteu'ō: entrust, commit to) that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."* On'oma: authority!

Then Jesus gives them the Great Commission! Mt 28:16-20

"Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus appointed them.

And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

1 Pt 2:21 *"hereunto were ye called...that ye should follow his steps..."* Epakolouthe'ō: accompany him!

**Are you willing to accompany
Him on His Great
"co-mission?"**

1 Cor 3:9; Mt.11:29

