

# The Company of the Committed

John 10:27 *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they Follow Me!”*

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

**Reflection:** *“For we walk by faith, not by sight”* 2 Cor 5:7 Faith is developed through a process:

- 1) Curiosity leads us to investigate/Consider the claims of Christ. (Jn 1:29-43)
- 2) Time with (and truth about) Jesus produces Clarity → Conviction. Mt 4:17; Luke 5:8

*“Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.”* (Kyrios: Supreme Authority!)

- 3) Conviction leads to a Call: Mt 4:19 *“Follow me and I will make you fishers of men...”*

a) This call is both challenging and changing. (Tough and Transformative)

Tough: You can't really follow Jesus and go your own way.

Transformative: While truly following Jesus, His Spirit changes you! (2 Cor 3:18; 5:17; Gal. 2:20; 5:15-25)

**A Disciple then is someone who is: Following (obeying) Jesus (Mt 4:19a);**

**Being changed by Jesus (Mt 4:19b); and Committed to the mission of Jesus! (Mt 4:19c)**

b) This Call of Christ involves becoming part of a congregation (Church) that:

Listens to God's Word (Mt 4:23; Rev. 2:7,11,17,29; 3:6,13,22); Looks: Observes God's ways/priorities (Mt 4:23,24); and Learns how to partner with Jesus. Mt 11:28,29

**Direction:** While the events of Mt. 4-8 challenged their Concept of God, each occurred relatively “close to home”; in the familiar Galilee area, until Mt. 8:18. This is the 2nd time that Matthew records that Jesus left the multitudes, *to reveal who would really follow Him!* (Mt 5:1; 8:18)

## Jesus' call to join the Company of the Committed:

### 1. Produces a “Tug of War”

A. You can't follow Jesus as Lord, *and stay where/how you are (or want to be).*

- 1) If Jesus isn't Lord of All, then he really isn't Lord at all! Luke 6:46
- 2) *“No man can serve two masters”* Mt 6:24
  - a) Trying to do so is exhausting and Confusing! Gal. 5:17
  - b) Mt 11:29 *“My yoke is easy...”* (chrestos: useful), *But not if we're fighting for control!* Amos 3:3

B. Growth requires some resistance (Gal. 5:17)

- 1) When we obey (AKA: Follow) God despite our “fleshly” doubts, fears, pride, etc., our Faith grows. Gal. 5:16 *“Walk in the Spirit, (peripateō: be occupied with, follow) and ye shall not fulfil (Teleo: finish, complete, perform, pay) the lusts of the flesh”*
- 2) When we *“walk in (feed) the flesh”* we “resist/rebel” against God's Spirit, producing the “fruit” of the flesh. Gal. 5:19-21

### 2. Reveals our personal priorities

A. The Sincere Scribe: Mt 8:19 *“Master, (didaskalos: teacher) I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.”*

1) Scribes loved to learn “knowledge”, but:

- a) Knowledge can fuel pride. “puffs up” 1 Cor 8:1
- b) Knowledge makes us more accountable. Lk 12:48 *“unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required.”*

2) Jesus' response. Vs 20 *“Jesus saith ... foxes have holes... but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.”*

- a) He didn't quiz him on his knowledge, but rather he challenged him on his commitment.

**B. The Divided Disciple vs 21** *“another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, (kyrios: supreme authority) suffer me first (proton: 1st in time, place, import) to go and bury my father.” (Contrast Mt 6:33)*

1) There’s a lot of “divided disciples” today.

a) Jesus warned the outcome of this would be barrenness. Mt 4:19; Luke 14:25-33

2) Notice Jesus’ answer: 22 *“Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.”*

Lk 9:62 *“No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”*

### **3. Provides A Defining Moment (Crisis of Faith: Who is our Lord?)**

**A. Jesus listened (to their intentions and excuses) but then left the multitudes behind.**

Vs 23 *“When He entered the ship, his disciples followed him...” (akoloutheō)*

#### **Conclusion:**

**Following Jesus involves: Curiosity → Clarity → Conviction → Call to:**

1) His Person (Jesus): *“follow me”*. Mt 4:19a

2) His people: *“I will make you”* 19b *(Part of Congregation that Listens, Looks, Learns.)*  
(Jn 13:34; 15:12;17; Heb. 3:13; 10:23-25; 1Jn 3:14-18)

3) His priorities and Purposes. Mt 4:19c *“Fishers of men”*

*Prioritizing/Pursuing God’s Purposes will eventually lead us out of our comfort zones:  
To a place we don’t naturally want to go, and to people we don’t naturally want to love and/or serve!*

#### **Application:**

**Discipleship isn’t about what we say (profess) and / or see, (recognize); (What we behold or even claim to believe) but what we actually do! (How we Behave!)**

**James 1:22-27; James 2:14-26! *“Faith without works is Dead!”***

**What does it really mean to Follow Jesus? *“his disciples followed him...” (akoloutheō)***

**From Alpha: first and keleuthos: to join or accompany.**

**Jesus often identified himself as the *“Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending saith the Lord”* Rev 1:6, 11; 21:6; 22:13**

**Who is really first (alpha) in your life?**

**Are you walking in union with him?**

**Someday he’ll be your omega and you’ll answer to him. 2 Cor 5:10,11**

*“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

*Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men...”*

**Rev. 2:7,11,17,29; 3:6,13,22**

*“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the church”*

**What is He saying to You? How will you respond?**