

Follow ME

Lesson Eleven • Matthew 10:32-42

Fully Devoted to Following Jesus

Jesus Started with Two Simple Words: "Follow Me!"

Jesus ends with three thought-provoking symbols: a SWORD, a CROSS, and a CUP.

Fully Devoted to Following Jesus:

1. A Sword: Following Jesus Brings DIVISION!

"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.'" Matthew 10:32-36

Peace Jesus Brings:

- Jesus brings SPIRITUAL peace to those who are reconciled to God.
- Jesus brings RELATIONAL peace between believers in Him.
- Jesus will bring ETERNAL peace when He comes again.

Peace Jesus Does Not Bring:

Jesus does not bring peace between those who ACCEPT Him and those who REJECT Him.

Decision to Follow Brings Division in Family:

Even the closest family relationships are inevitably SEVERED when you follow Jesus publicly and supremely.

2. A Cross: Following Jesus Brings DECISION!

He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me." Matthew 10:37-38

A Decision of Loyalty:

- Jesus calls us to LOVE Him supremely more than family.
- Jesus calls us to LIVE for Him ultimately by dying to self.

3. A Cup: Following Jesus Brings REWARD!

"He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it. He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward." Matthew 10:39-42

The Reward:

If you "find your life" living for self, you will LOSE. But if you "lose your life" living for Jesus, you will WIN.

The Question from Matthew 10:

Are you a casual fan of Jesus or a committed follower of Jesus?
Do you love Jesus enough to follow Him fully-devoted?

Fully Devoted to Following Jesus:

- 1) **KNOW** Christ: Do you know Jesus as the Savior who came to save you from your sins and are you worshiping Him as the Lord who reigns with authority?
- 2) **GROW** in Christ: What next steps do you need to take in order to grow deeper in your love for Jesus?
- 3) **SHOW** Christ: In what ways is God leading you to show Jesus to people in your community and beyond?
- 4) **GO** with Christ: Who do you know that needs you to go and share the Good News of the Gospel with them?