

Following the Lord Jesus Christ

Introduction

- A. One of our most serious problems has to do with the measurement of value. This was not only true for us as children it is today a continuing test of character and wisdom.
- B. Too often it is the pressures and circumstances of daily life which force us to develop a false set of values. These also tend to cloud the nature of such values and their destructive potentiality.
- C. Many of the highest values of life come to us only as a by-product. What may appear on the surface as having no value at all may produce that which is most beneficial, lasting and helpful. The theme of this lesson is an example. Not many would count "following the Lord Jesus" as valuable.

I. The Promises to All Who Would Follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

- A. The Lord Jesus will accept all who will come to Him, John 6:37.

All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me, and him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out.

Observation: If we are to follow the Lord Jesus this is where we must begin. We must come to Him. This involves more than a humanitarian or a religious desire. The Lord Jesus is God - infinite and absolute in truth, love and holiness. We can come to Him only with an honest acknowledgment of our sinfulness, in repentance and with a whole-hearted belief in Him as our Savior and Lord. When we come that way - He accepts us. (Ephesians 1:3-6)

- B. All those who Biblically come to the Lord Jesus will follow Him, John 10:27,28.

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand.

Observation: These verses show the results which follow the decision to come to Jesus Christ. When we come - He accept us - and brings His grace of forgiveness, acceptance, renewal, and spiritual enablement into our lives. Such a person becomes a "follower" of the Lord Jesus and possesses eternal life.

II. The Benefits to All Who Would Follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

- A. The benefit of soul-winning, Matthew 4:19.

And He saith unto than (Peter and Andrew), Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.

Observation: While this was originally said to two of the disciples the principle holds true for all "followers". We have the ability to win people to Jesus Christ. What could be more valuable than that - for ourselves - and for those whom we win?

- B. The benefit of spiritual rest, Matthew 11:28-30.

Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.

Observation: The "rest" spoken of in these verses has to do with spiritual peace, forgiveness, acceptance, and certainty. Because of the lost condition of the human race, all of us sense our guilt and separation from God. When we come to the Lord Jesus Christ and believe on Him - that is all settled - and we have His "rest".

C. The benefit of treasure in Heaven, Matthew 19:21.

Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in Heaven, and come and follow Me.

Observation: The problem in the life of this man was not his riches - it was the way his money controlled him. If he would follow the Savior he was promised "treasure in Heaven". This is a reminder of the "true riches" which all believers may have and which comes through simple and faithful obedience. We do not have to "have money" to be controlled by it!

D. The benefit of "living water", John 7:37-39.

In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink. He that believeth on Me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. But this spake He of the Spirit

Observation: Here we are taught that the believer can bring life and help into the lives of others. This is God's plan - to use His people to reach out to others. We must be sure we "thirst" and "drink".

E. The benefit of "the light of life" John 8:12.

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world, he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Observation: By this term the Lord Jesus is referring to wisdom and ability to have a correct understanding of life itself. What an honor that would be - to live without missing the very meaning of life itself - and to help others do the same.

F. The benefit of certainty concerning Heaven and the Father's honor, John 12:26.

If any man serve Me, let him follow Me, and where I am, there shall also My servant be, if any man serve Me, him will My Father honour.

Observation: What could be more valuable than the benefits of these two promises ? It may be we have put the emphasis of life in areas of little value.

III. The Warning to All Who Would Follow the Lord Jesus Christ, Mark 8:34.

Whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

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