

# Following Jesus

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- I. “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.” (Joh 12:26)
  
- II. Jesus said that if any man would serve Him, he must follow Him (**Joh 12:26a**).
  1. What does it mean to serve Jesus?
    - A. Serve *v.* – I. To be a servant (to), render service (to). 1. a. *intr.* To be a servant; to perform the duties of a servant. 2. a. To go through or perform a term of service under a master. 3. a. To be a servant to; to work for, be employed in the personal service of (a master or mistress). 4. a. To attend upon (as a servant does); to wait upon, minister to the comfort of.
    - B. Servant *n.* – 1. A personal or domestic attendant; one whose duty is to wait upon his master or mistress, or do certain work in his or her household.
    - C. When we serve Jesus, we devote our lives to Him and do what He asks or demands of us.
    - D. We serve Jesus by keeping His commandments (**Joh 14:15, 21 ct/w Luk 6:46**).
  2. What does it mean to “follow” Jesus?
    - A. Follow *v.* – 1. a. To go or come after (a person or other object in motion); to move behind in the same direction. 3. To go after or along with (a person) as an attendant or companion; to accompany, serve, or attend upon. 4. *fig.* To accompany, attend upon, ‘go with’; to be a (necessary) concomitant or accompaniment to; to be consequent upon. 7. *fig.* (Cf. sense 3). To treat or take (a person) as a guide, leader, or master; to accept the authority or example of, obey the dictates or guidance of; to adhere to, espouse the opinions, side, or cause of. Also, ***to follow a person’s steps***. 8. a. To conform to, comply with, obey, act upon or in accordance with (advice, command, teaching, example, fashion, etc.); to take as a rule or model, act up to, ‘walk after’. b. To conform to in likeness, resemble, take after; to imitate or copy.
    - B. To follow Jesus is therefore to accept His authority, obey His dictates, espouse His opinions, take His side on things, comply with His advice, act in accordance with His example, have Him as our role model, conform to His likeness, and imitate what He does.
    - C. When we follow Jesus, we are where He is (**Joh 12:26b**).
      - i. Jesus’ disciples physically followed Him and accompanied Him during His ministry (**Mat 4:18-22**).
      - ii. We must spiritually follow Him and be where He is.
    - D. We follow Jesus today by taking our lives in the same direction He took when He was on earth.
      - i. We do so by:
        - a. thinking like He thought (**Php 2:5; 1Co 2:16**).

- b. devoting our lives to God like He did (**Luk 2:49; Joh 4:34**).
- c. loving God's house and being zealous for it like He was (**Joh 2:13-17; Psa 27:4**).
- d. worshipping God like He did (**Mat 4:10; Joh 4:23-24**).
- e. prioritizing the church and the brethren above our own family like He did (**Mat 12:46-50; Mat 10:37; Mat 19:29**).
- f. being meek and lowly (**Mat 11:29; 1Pe 5:5-6**) and gentle like He was (**2Co 10:1; Gal 5:22-23**).
- g. being merciful (**Heb 2:17; Luk 6:36**) and compassionate (**Mat 14:14; Jud 1:22**) like He was.
- h. being wise like He was (**Mat 12:42; 1Co 1:24 c/w Luk 11:49 c/w Mat 23:34; Col 2:3; Eph 5:15; Pro 4:5-7**).
- i. resisting Satan like He did (**Luk 4:1-13; Jam 4:7**).
- j. telling people the truth like He did (**Joh 8:40, 45-46; Psa 15:2; Eph 4:15**).
- k. loving righteousness and hating sin like He did (**Heb 1:8-9; Psa 119:128**).
- l. not serving money like He didn't (**Mat 6:24; Mat 8:19-20; 2Co 8:9; Pro 13:7; 2Co 6:10; 1Ti 3:3; 1Ti 6:5-11**).
- m. condemning sin and false religion like He did (**Mat 23:13-15, 25-28; Tit 1:9-11**).
- n. always doing those things which please God like He did (**Joh 8:29; 1Th 4:1; Heb 11:5-6**).
- o. being obedient to our parents when we are young like He did (**Luk 2:51; Eph 6:1-3**).
- p. honoring and caring for our parents when we are adults like He did (**Joh 19:26-27; Mar 7:9-13; 1Ti 5:4, 16**).
- q. being obedient to God throughout life like He was (**Joh 6:38; Rom 5:19; Php 2:8; 1Pe 1:13-16**).
- r. serving others like He did (**Luk 22:26-27; Php 2:7; Gal 5:13**).
- s. being selfless like He was (**Mat 20:28; Php 2:4-7; 1Co 10:24**).
- t. sacrificing ourselves for others like He did (**Eph 5:1-2; Joh 15:13**).
- u. loving our wives like He loved the church (**Eph 5:25**).
- v. submitting to our husbands like He submitted to God (**Heb 10:9; Eph 5:22**).
- w. enduring hardship willingly like He did (**Luk 22:42; Mat 10:38-39**).
- x. doing God's will despite our fears (**Heb 5:7; Mat 26:37-39; 1Jo 4:18 c/w Joh 14:15**).
- y. suffering for righteousness' sake like He did (**1Pe 2:21-22; 1Pe 3:14**).
- z. loving our enemies (**Rom 5:6-10; Luk 23:34; Mat 5:44**) and not rendering evil for evil and railing for railing like He did (**1Pe 2:23; 1Pe 3:9**).
- aa. laying down our lives for our friends and loved ones, if necessary, like He did (**Joh 10:15; Joh 15:13**).
- ii. We also follow Jesus Christ by following the example of the apostle Paul.

- a. Paul is our example of what a Christian should be (**Php 3:7-16**).
- b. He is our apostle (**Rom 11:13**).
- c. Paul was a follower of Christ (**1Co 11:1**).
- d. He exhorted us to be followers of him as he was of Christ (**1Co 4:16; Php 3:17; Php 4:9; 1Th 1:6**).
- e. We should emulate his ways which are in Christ (**1Co 4:17**).

III. God the Father will honor the man who serves and follows Jesus Christ (**Joh 12:26c**).

- 1. Honour *v.* – 1. *trans.* To do honour to, pay worthy respect to (by some outward action); to worship, perform one's devotions to; to do obeisance or homage to; to celebrate. 2. To hold in honour, respect highly; to reverence, worship; to regard or treat with honour or respect. 3. To confer honour or dignity upon; to do honour or credit to; to grace.
- 2. Honour *n.* – 1. High respect, esteem, or reverence, accorded to exalted worth or rank; deferential admiration or approbation. a. As felt or entertained in the mind for some person or thing.
- 3. If a man serves and follows Jesus Christ, God will highly respect, esteem, and admire him.
  - A. Imagine being highly respected, esteemed, and admired by Almighty God!
  - B. This is what God promises to do for the man who accepts Jesus' authority, obeys His dictates, espouses His opinions, takes His side on things, complies with His advice, acts in accordance with His example, has Him as his role model, conforms to His likeness, and imitates what He does.
- 4. Those that honor God will He honor (**1Sa 2:30**).
- 5. How does God honor those who serve Jesus Christ?
  - A. He delivers them, answers their prayers, is with them in time of trouble, satisfies them with a long and blessed life, and shows them His salvation (**Psa 91:14-16**).
  - B. He tells them "Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant" on Judgment Day (**Mat 25:21**).
  - C. He gives them a crown of life/righteousness (**Rev 2:10; Jam 1:12; 2Ti 4:8**).