

True Disciples of Jesus Christ

Matthew 8:18 Now **when** Jesus saw great multitudes about him, he **gave commandment to depart unto the other side.** 19 And a certain scribe came, and said unto him, **Master, I will follow thee** whithersoever thou goest. 20 And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air *have* nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay *his* head. 21 And another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, **suffer me first** to go and bury my father. 22 But Jesus said unto him, **Follow me;** and let the dead bury their dead.

23 And when he was entered into a ship, **his disciples followed him.** 24 And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but **he was asleep.** 25 And his disciples came to *him*, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. 26 And he saith unto them, **Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?** Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. 27 But the men

marvelled, saying, **What manner of man is this,** that even the winds and the sea obey him!

1. An emotional response to Christ **8:18** Now **when** Jesus saw great multitudes about him, he **gave commandment to depart unto the other side.** **19**

And a certain scribe came, and said unto him,

Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. **20** And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air *have* nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay *his* head.

a. A scribe decides to follow Jesus

- i. He is a teacher, he has graduated in the study of the law
- ii. He excitedly tells Jesus that he will become his student
- iii. He puts no limits on his surrender
- iv. He seems to take no thought for the decision he is making

- v. This is boastful promise that he will follow Jesus, he will never stop-like Peter promising that he will not deny Jesus
- b. The way Jesus responds shows that the man was too ready and responded without considering what he was doing
 - i. Some like the seed that fell on stony ground spring up quickly but do not have the roots to keep going
 - ii. This was a superficial decision
 - iii. He did not count the cost
- c. Jesus simply makes a statement of fact about what it means to follow Him **20 And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air *have* nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay *his* head.**
 - i. Following Jesus would mean choosing things of spiritual value over earthly value
 - ii. It means placing Jesus and His work over your own life and plans
 - iii. Following Jesus would mean less of this world's goods
 - iv. This man had made an ignorant promise, he had no idea of the cost that would come with following Jesus

v. Following Jesus is to serve and give up your comfortable life

d. Time for a self examination

i. Have you eagerly jumped into ministry and been excited about serving God only to fall back by the way side

ii. Have you said you believed Him as your Lord and Savior only to turn back to the old life

iii. Have you thought that being saved was about what you could get to make your life more prestigious, comfortable, etc

iv. Do you make quick decisions that you do not fully think out and mean

v. Have you completely chosen to follow Jesus whatever it may cost you

2. A selfish response to Christ **21** And another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, **suffer me first** to go and bury my father. **22** But Jesus said unto him, **Follow me;** and let the dead bury their dead.

- a. The first disciple was over ready and this one wants Jesus to wait on him
- b. Following Jesus is never about meeting our needs first
 - i. If this man stays he will please his father
 - ii. If he stays he can get his inheritance and be even more ready to follow Jesus
- c. Following Jesus means Him first not "me first!"
 - i. Following Jesus is not something you put off till tomorrow for any reason
 - ii. You do not tell Jesus that there are other things that are more important than His call on your life
- d. Jesus said let the dead bury the dead
 - i. Actually in their culture his dad wasn't dead yet.
 - ii. The idea was that the son should honor his dad's wishes until he died and then he could finally do what he wanted
 - iii. This man wanted to first meet his family obligations
- e. There are some great lessons to be learned from these encounters
 - i. Following Jesus was a total commitment
 - 1. You would give up your right to comfort

2. Your commitment to Him would be greater than all your other commitments
- ii. No one but Jesus could ever ask for such great commitment
 1. For Him we hate our families
 2. For Him we give up our life and our plans
- iii. Following Jesus means that I give Him a blank piece of paper and the right to decide everything about me and my life
- iv. Following Jesus affects my every day life on the smallest scale.
 1. It is not about saying no to bad things but even good things
 2. It is loving Jesus more than anything He has given us
 3. It means deciding that Jesus will be the purpose and the cause of our life
- f. Time for the self examination
 - i. Have you put other things, persons, plans above Jesus and His will for your life
 - ii. Have you used Jesus as a way to better your life

- iii. Do you think that everything has a time and place and God shouldn't encroach on your lifestyle, maybe you want to serve Him but you do not what Him adversely affecting your life
- iv. Have you surrendered everything in you so that Jesus gets first place and every place in your life

3. Testing the disciples **23** And when he was entered into a ship, **his disciples followed him.** **24** And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but **he was asleep.** **25** And **his disciples** came to *him*, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. **26** And he saith unto them, **Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?** Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. **27** But the men marvelled, saying, **What manner of man is this,** that even the winds and the sea obey him!

- a. These disciples had followed Jesus not just talked about it

- b. They were obeying His commands **8:18** Now **when Jesus saw great multitudes about him, he gave commandment to depart unto the other side.**
- c. The Lord allows a great storm to come up
 - i. It was so bad that the waves are higher than the ship
 - ii. Men that are used to the water and the waves are terrified
 - iii. They literally believe that they are about to die
 - iv. They wake up Jesus
- d. Jesus rebukes them for being fearful
 - i. Being full of fear meant that they were not full of love and faith **I John 4:18** **There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.**
 - ii. Being fearful means that they did not believe or understand Jesus when He told them that they were going to the other side
 - iii. Being fearful meant that they were worried about themselves like the two false disciples
 - 1. They were worried about their comfort and security
 - 2. They thought they deserved protecting

3. They thought they even deserved to live which is something we gave up when we decided to follow Jesus

e. In many ways the storm was a test

i. Would they believe that Jesus would take care of them

ii. Were they truly dead to themselves, their wishes and desires

iii. Did they know that He was in deed God and completely in charge of everything 27 **But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!**

1. Not just them but even nature

2. He had the power to control even the storms of life

f. Time for self examination

i. Are you following Jesus, are you saved

ii. Are you living in obedience

iii. Are you learning to trust Him and all that He does in your life

iv. Do you recognize that He is God and has complete rule over your life, the world, and all in it