

# *The First Disciples*

John 1:43-51

PART ONE

## **Introduction**

### **John 1:35-42**

**“disciples”** Gk *mathetes*; ‘learner, apprentice, adherent.’ (used 63x in John)

**“followed Jesus”** Gk *akoloutheo*; ‘come after, accompany, follow.’

If you want God to lead you out, you must be willing to follow!

What does that mean, *Follow Me*? What or Who is it that draws them?

John 10:27

John 12:26

***Following Christ* means devoting your whole heart to Him and dedicating your entire life to His service.**

‘To follow one who precedes; in union with; to walk the same road.’ (Thayer’s; Strong’s)

**The Effectual Call of the Disciple** (He calls individuals. He doesn’t call crowds)

Matthew 9:9

Matthew 4:18-22

### **The Crowds that *followed***

Matthew 4:23-25

Now we have “great crowds” *following* Jesus. Why?

### **Feeding the Five Thousand**

John 6:1-3

John 6:15

### **The Triumphal Entry**

John 12:12-13

John 12:17-18

This was the same crowd that would be shouting for ‘Barabbas’ in just a few days (John 18:40)!

Could it be that some, if not many of those in the “large crowds” had selfish reasons for *following*?

### **What does it mean to *follow Him*?**

3 people who approached Jesus and claimed to want to *follow Him*:

Luke 9:57-62

### **Three self-serving reasons to follow Jesus:**

- 1) Sense of Belonging (i.e., a social club)
- 2) Personal Gain (e.g., financial, material, positional; 'fire insurance')
- 3) Wonder & Excitement (i.e., a whim or a lark; drawn by popularity)

Luke 14:25-33

Matthew 19:20-22

Matthew 19:22-23, 25

John 6:60

John 6:66-69

Luke 13:22-24

Matthew 7:13-14

Matthew 22:14

2 Corinthians 13:5

John 12:25-26

### **The 10 Marks of a True *Disciple* (follower) of Jesus Christ**

- 1) They hear His voice
- 2) They recognize who He is
- 3) They acknowledge their need
- 4) They believe in who He is
- 5) They follow Him
- 6) They cling to Him
- 7) They learn from Him
- 8) They imitate Him
- 9) They love Him
- 10) They proclaim Him