

If You Would Follow Me...

Luke's Record of the Acts of Jesus

Luke 9:23-36

05-22-2016

Follow-up

- “Who do you say I am?”
- If God has revealed to you who Jesus is...then Jesus’ next statement answers the next question that is demanded; “What does it take to follow Him?”

Common Answers

- You must learn to love yourself so that you can truly love Jesus
- You deserve to be happy
- Holiness doesn't mean you have to be a prude
 - Those writers in the Bible didn't understand our enlightened society
- If you make some room for Jesus, He'll will make room for you
- If you would just learn to dream bigger, He would come in and bless your dreams
- Deny yourself?! Are you kidding??? Jesus wants to BLESS YOUUUUU!
So, you better get ready and build some bigger barns!

More Common Answers

- The world will learn to love Jesus when we Christians stop making them uncomfortable around us
 - Let's learn to be like the world...then they will love us...
 - Oh, (ahem) and Jesus too
- If we would just adapt our styles to sound/look/act/think/lust (oops...I mean love)/etc. like pop-culture.....

Let's Start With Authority

- Jesus promised that His Word would not pass away until the Law was fulfilled – Mt 5:17*f*.
- Whoever lowers the righteous standard of God's Law and teaches others to do the same will be called the least in God's kingdom – 5:19
 - Believers can teach bad-doctrine, but there is a penalty
- Whoever keeps God's Laws, and teaches others to do the same will be called great in God's kingdom – 5:20
- Teachers of righteousness can be found to be unrighteous – 5:20; cf., Is 64:6
 - Righteousness comes by believing in God – Gen 15:6; Ro 4:5

What Part is God's Word?

- ALL OF IT –
 - All the prophecy – 2 Pe 1:20
 - All the letters – 2 Pet 3:14-18
 - All of it – 2 Tim 3:16*f*.
- So, which words did Jesus speak?
 - ALL OF IT – It is God's Word and Jesus is the Word of God – Jn 1:1*ff*.

So, What Must We Do?

- Recognize that until God begins to transform our minds, we will always want to give ourselves a break – Is 64; Ps 14:1-3 (cf., 53:1-3)
- God's word makes no sense to the naturally minded person – Is 55; 2 Co 4:4; 1 Jn 5:2 (cf., 2:5, 11)
- Those who teach that God's righteousness is no longer so lofty, speak from a spirit of falsehood – 4:6; cf., 2 Tim 2:3-9
- We must come to obedience – not to earn God's salvation, but because we love God and desire to please Him – Jas 2:14ff.; Ro 6:16; 2 Co 10:5; Gal 5:7; cf., 1 Sam 15:22; Gen 4:7

How Do We Do It?

- Jesus is about to answer that question in Luke 9:23-26