

# FOLLOWING JESUS

## MARCH 6, 2016

### LUKE 9:23-26 NIV

Introduction: Christ denied Himself to take up His cross and follow the Father's redemptive plan to save mankind. Love motivated Christ to do what He did. To be a true disciple, we too must deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow the example of Jesus. Love should be our motivation as well. What does it mean to follow Christ?

### WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO KNOW!

- 1.) Because of the consequences.
  - A.) To follow self, we lose our lives, souls and Savior.
    - \* God's plan for our lives will go unfulfilled.
    - \* Our souls will be lost eternally.
    - \* Our Savior will be ashamed of us.
  - B.) To follow Christ, we gain our lives, souls and Savior.
    - \* We glorify God on earth by doing His will. **JOHN 17:4**
    - \* Our souls are eternally saved. **1 JOHN 5:12**
    - \* Our Savior is not ashamed. **HEB. 2:11**
- 2.) Examples:
  - A.) Alexander the Great was undefeated in battle in his quest to conquer the world. Conquering over 2 million square miles of land, he was considered one of history's most successful military commanders. He demanded to be worshipped as god. At age 32, he died of a fever.
  - B.) Adolph Hitler was another with a quest to conquer the world. When defeat was imminent, he committed suicide.
  - C.) Moses refused what the world had to offer to suffer affliction with God's people and was seen transfigured with Elijah and Jesus while Pharaoh, Hitler and Alexander the Great are found suffering the torments of Hades. **HEB. 11:24-27.**

## WHAT IT MEANS

### 1.) Self Denial. **LUKE 9:23 NIV** "Must"

A.) We surrender our right to live our lives independent of God. **JOHN 15:5** "severed from me".

B.) We live to please God, not ourselves. **2 COR. 5:9** "Well Pleasing".

C.) We place His will above our aspirations, hopes and dreams, "Thy will be done".

### 2.) Self Crucifixion **GAL. 5:24**

A.) This doesn't mean a burden we must carry: a sickness, a situation, a thankless job, or strained relationship.

B.) The Cross means we're willing to die daily for the cause of Christ. We're willing to follow Jesus if it means:

- \* Losing close friends.
- \* Being alienated from family.
- \* Loss of reputation.
- \* Losing a job.
- \* Losing your life. **COL. 3:1-4**

### 3.) Self Transformation. **GAL. 2:20 PHIL. 3:10-11**

A.) Following Jesus means striving to be like Him.

\* A disciple sits at the feet of his master, listens to every word, observes every move, absorbs everything he can in order to be like him, act, talk and walk even as He walked. **1 JOHN 2:6**

**CONCLUSION:** Following Jesus means supreme love, supreme loyalty and supreme loss. **LUKE 14:26-33** The benefits far outweigh the sacrifice. Eternal life, His presence, power, peace, promises, provision, protection, eternal glory, heavenly home.

**JOHN 15:5 1 TIM. 4:8 AMP**