

A CHRISTIAN IS A FOLLOWER

Part II

Luke 9:57-62

We all know that to follow Jesus is demanding and costly. We also know that to follow Jesus completely is rewarding. We forget sometimes that to follow Him touches all of our life.

Yesterday we saw that to follow Christ means bearing a cross as well as wearing a crown. We saw that it meant complete obedience to Christ and not partial. There is still more involved however. Consider the following:

III. To follow Jesus means to Follow Him in Works as well as Words.

Long ago Jesus asked some "followers", "Why do you call me Lord and do not the things I say?" (Luke 6:46) Evidently there were some, then as there are now, who "talked the talk, but didn't walk the walk." Now to call Jesus "Lord" sounds good, but if it is only words not supported by works it is hypocritical.

In Texas, there is a saying, "He's all hat and no cattle." It is used to describe a man who talks a good game, but can't produce. Know any church members like that?

James in his epistle talked about those who "said they had faith" but nothing in their lives revealed their faith. All words and no works. (James 2:14) They were condemned.

Unlike these we are to follow the example of Christ in the Upper Room. With a towel and a bowl of water, he who was their Lord, washed the disciples' feet as a slave or servant would have done. He then said, "I have given you an example that you do as I have done." (John 13:13)

We need to wear an apron not a bib. We need to feed and not be fed. We need to serve and not be served. We need to support and not be supported. We need to be the caring and not the cared for. We need to teach and not be taught. We need to be the answer not the problem. We are the servants of Christ. We need to see the need and meet it.

A Louisiana Cajun had put his mule up for sale. A prospective buyer asked, "Are there any problems with the mule?" The Cajun answered, "Only that he don't look so good." The man answered, "Well, I don't really care about that. Does he work hard?" "Oh, yea, he work hard, he just don't look so good." So the man bought the mule, and the Cajun loaded him onto the new owner's trailer. When he arrived at his farm, he put down the ramp and brought the mule off the trailer. The mule

immediately ran into a tree, then into the side of the barn. The farmer cried angrily, "I've been cheated! This mule is blind!" He reloaded the mule onto the trailer went back to the original owner, and loudly exclaimed, "You misrepresented this mule to me. This mule is blind. You lied to me!" "Oh no," the Cajun replied, "I don't lie to you, I tol' you, 'He don't look so good'!"

On the other hand there are those who look great. They give a perfect picture of a follower of Christ, but are blind to real needs about them and therefore do nothing to meet the needs. They don't "look so good."

- They fail to see the needs of the homeless.
- They fail to see those about them who need Christ and the church.
- They are blinded to the God given vision of the congregation.
- Their eyes are closed to the building needs of the church and make no financial sacrifices to meet the opportunities at hand.

Oh but the joy of seeing as Christ sees, and doing as He would. How exciting it is to follow in His steps and to do His will for our lives.

And it is still true that the world is more concerned with our deeds than our words. The following was written about preachers, but it applies to all of us:

*I'd rather see a sermon
Than hear one any day;
I'd rather one walk with me
Than merely show the way.
- Author Unknown*

Lord, on our walk together help me to work as I walk.