

# Message Notes

## “I Will Follow You”

### Matthew 8:18-22 (ESV)

June 11, 2017

#### Improving the Quality of Your Spiritual Life Today Commences with Understanding the Term “Disciple”

##### ◆ We Laugh at These Clever Definitions

- ◆ Adult                      Dust
- ◆ Cannibal                      Mosquito
- ◆ Committee                      Skeleton

##### ◆ We Listen to This Critical Dialogue

###### ◆ A Retreat: Place of Quiet

Now when Jesus saw a crowd around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. (Matthew 8:18)

###### ◆ A Reality Check: Privileges Lost

And a scribe came up and said to him, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.” And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” (Matthew 8:19-20)

###### ◆ A Request: Priority Not Always Family

Another of the disciples said to him, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” And Jesus said to him, “Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead.” (Matthew 8:21-22)

##### ◆ We Look For Definition

###### ◆ These Strong Voices Lead in One Direction

“The gospel Jesus proclaimed was a call to discipleship to follow Him in submissive obedience.”

“The call to faith and discipleship are one and the same and cannot be separated.”

“In common honesty, we must not conceal the fact that free forgiveness in one sense will cost everything.”

###### ◆ This Simple Meaning Suggests Another

###### ◆ Focus Is on Learning

###### ◆ For This Specific Goal: Share Life with Teacher

It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household. (Matthew 10:25)

#### Improving the Quality of Your Spiritual Life Today Continues with Clarifying the Difference Between Salvation and Discipleship

##### ◆ Cost Is Distinct: “Free to Us, Costly to God”

And are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. (Romans 3:24)

◆ **Categories Are Distinct**

Salvation

Justification

By Grace

Christ's Cross for Me

Eternal Life

Unbeliever's Response

Instantaneous

New Birth

One Condition

Inclusive

Discipleship

Sanctification

By Works

My Cross for Christ

Eternal Rewards

Believer's Response

Progressive

Continued Growth

Many Conditions

Exclusive

**Improving the Quality of Your Spiritual Life Today Concludes with a Call to the Adventure of Following Jesus**

◆ **Conditions for Commitment Are Invitations to Grow**

◆ **Specific Standards**

◆ **Love God with Whole Being . . . Take Up Cross . . . Be Willing to Suffer . . . Remain in His Word**

◆ **Specific Scripture**

◆ **Matthew 10:37-39; 16:24-27**

◆ **Luke 9:23-26; 14:25-33**

◆ **John 8:31**

◆ **Consider the Adventure: Peter's Example**

◆ **His Challenge**

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation. (1 Peter 2:2)

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. (2 Peter 3:18)

◆ **His Course**

◆ **John 1:40-43**

◆ **Matthew 4:18-22; Luke 5:1-11**

◆ **John 21**

◆ **Clarify the Call: "Come to Me" or "Come After Me"**

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

(Matthew 11:28-30)

*"We believe that Christ's love for us is what brings salvation.  
It is our love for Christ that is part of the discipleship process . . .*

*He took up His cross and carried it to Golgotha for me,  
and I am to take up my cross daily for Him in discipleship."*

(Dr. Charles Bing, Grace Life Ministries)