

Lessons From People Who Followed Jesus

This week – continuing our series of lessons which teach us how to savingly follow Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man hath not where to lay His head.” *Luke 9v58.*

Bible Readings for this week:

(Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Luke 9v18-27 (Call to deny oneself and follow the Lord)	
Monday	Luke 9v57-62 (Jesus Christ says ‘Follow Me’)	
Tuesday	Matthew 8v19-22 (False promises to follow Christ)	
Wednesday	Micah 6v6-8 (How to come to the Lord)	
Thursday	Psalms 90 (Man’s weakness and our need of God)	
Friday	Isaiah 45v1-25 (God calls for our full obedience)	
Saturday	Isaiah 48v12-22 (God’s call to hear and obey Him)	

Important Question for us Today: Do we live to please God? To please God, we must meet His standards completely. We must have a heart with a character that is pure, consistently honest, sincere, and genuine. One which loves God above all else, and is willing and able to keep His principles as written in the Bible and on our consciences, whatever the cost; in essence to live like Christ. Yet, by our own strength we cannot live to such a high standard. This is why we need God’s forgiveness and acceptance through Christ’s death on Calvary, and the gift of Christ’s perfect righteousness given to us at our conversion. Once saved, our heart will be changed; not wanting to sin but desiring to please God. The development of our new character following Biblical principles will begin immediately upon conversion and be completed to perfection when we enter God’s Eternal, and Holy, Heaven. This is the Biblical principle of **Growing in Sanctification**.

Hymn 360 - calling us to come to The Saviour in true repentance, now:

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| 1. Come to the Saviour now!
His mercy calleth thee;
In true repentance bow,
Before Him bow the knee.
He waiteth to bestow
Salvation, peace and love,
True joy on earth below,
A home in Heaven above. | 3. Come to the Saviour, all,
Whate’er your guilt may be;
Hear now His loving call -
‘Cast all your care on Me.’
Come, and for every grief,
In Jesus you will find
A sure and safe relief,
A Friend and Saviour kind. |
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EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet.

This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible.

Two Possible Disciples.

- **Two Possible Disciples Who Failed The Lord’s Test.**
 - **One Volunteered, saying to Jesus, “I will follow You wherever You go.”**
 The Lord replied, *“Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.”* See Luke 9v57-58.
The Lord’s Test. ‘Do you really want the Christian way of life? If you follow Me then you will have to love Me more than all other things. **Can you do this?’**
 The Christian life must be lived with Jesus Christ at its’ centre – family, home, etc. are important, but we must put Christ first because He died to save us.
 - **The Other Man was Called by Jesus – He said to him, “Follow Me.”**
 This man said, *“Lord, suffer, (allow), me first to go and bury my father.”*
 Meaning, ‘I must wait until my father has died to receive my inheritance’.
The Lord’s response. “Let the dead, (unbelievers), bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.” See Luke 9v59-60.
 The Lord meant, ‘Follow Me **now** regardless of the cost in earthly benefits.’
 The Christian life is one of obedient service and self-denial. Our comforts are not in the success or glory of this world - we look with delight towards Heaven.
- **Why Did Both These Men Fail The Lord’s Test?**
 - **Neither came God’s way because they: -**
 - Came in their own strength – confident they were worthy and acceptable.
 - Had no appreciation of their sinful hearts - needing The Lords’ forgiveness.
 - Wanted only glory and fame but not the cost of being a follower of Christ.
- **Compare These Men With Others We Have Recently Learnt About.**
 - **Mary** – Stopped her earthly pursuits to humbly listen to and obey the Lord.
 - **The Centurion** – Felt unworthy that the Lord should come to his house.
 - **Zaccheus** – Humbly repented, was forgiven and showed his changed heart.
 - **The Street Woman** – Loved much because she knew she was forgiven much.
- **Some Tests For Us – In What Spirit Do We ‘Come to Christ’?**
 - Do we proudly feel we are doing God a favour - God needs someone like me?
 - Or do we just want the advantages of going to Heaven?
This is insincere, and totally unacceptable to God.
 - We must sincerely realise that we need the Lord’s forgiveness, help, and guidance - seeking not the worlds or our own glory, nor riches, or fame, but the glory of His Name. **That the Lord Jesus’ Name be honoured by our life.**

The Apostle Matthew wrote, *“For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”* *Matthew 16v26.*