



## “The Truth is the Light!”

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Based on Biblical Text: Mark 1:17

“And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me and I will make you to become fishers of men.”

In today’s modern-day global society our churches look more like the world. In fact it appears our churches have become more like the supermarket, the department store and the restaurant. What are you saying Pastor? I’m saying that across this country churches that once spent more time serving Jesus are more about serving themselves. We have turned many of our churches into practitioners of "consumer religion." Our churches are populated with individuals who say and have the attitude of "What-can-the-church-do-for-me?" instead of "What-can-I-do-for-the-church?"

Our churches have become very much like the clubs and cliques we become a part of. I’ll serve but how much of my time will it take? I’ll be a part but don’t count on me to give too much of myself. I would take part but there is so much more in my life that is more important right now. Maybe when I’m struck with an illness I’ll pay more attention. Maybe when I’m down and out financially I’ll be closer. Right now while I’m doing ok, while I got my health, while I got my mind on getting ahead, what can the church do for me?

If we have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior and hold claim to the family of the most High God, then Beloved we are called to be a disciple. As a disciple of Jesus we must come to the understanding that it ain’t all about us. It is not what can the church of the living God do for me but what can I do for the church of the living God.

Before we go any further we need to examine this word "disciple." The Greek word from which we derive the word "disciple" can only be found in the "Gospels" and in the "Book of Acts" and, my brothers and sisters, it refers primarily to those individuals who were closely associated with Jesus, the Christ!

Jesus commands His disciples to "Follow Him" and learn! Jesus commands His disciples to “Follow Him” and do! A disciple is an individual who has accepted Jesus, the Christ, as Lord and Savior; and, has determined to give Him Lordship over his [or, her] life! He [or, she] is a follower, a learner and, an apprentice or journeyman!

We need to understand that there is a vast difference between coming to Jesus, the Christ, "FOR" Salvation and coming "AFTER" Jesus, the Christ, "FOR" service! A Christian "disciple" is an individual who both believes and obeys the challenge and the call to live a life of obedient service to the Lord God Almighty!

With the call of Jesus, the Christ, to "Follow Him" comes a call to action! Jesus is saying, in effect, “Come out of your Comfort Zones, there’s a job to be done; and, I need you to get it done!” The word "follow" in the Holy Scriptures (or, Holy Bible), the written Word of Almighty God, is a powerful word! It literally means "blind obedience." It is an unwavering, unshakable total commitment. It means absolute sacrificial love and devotion to a great cause. Discipleship, the cause of Jesus, the Christ is a devotion that brings us outside of ourselves. It is a devotion that is larger than self!

To follow Jesus is an extremely serious business. Why? Because Jesus, the Christ, is giving a call to discipleship! The two (2) words "Follow Me" indicate that Jesus is asking for our complete devotion and our complete trust. Jesus is asking for our service and He is asking for our loyalty! The words "Follow Me" indicate that Jesus is asking for our lives, our hearts, our souls, our minds and, our strength! Jesus is asking for a lot, my brothers and sisters; but, then, He is offering and giving a lot in return!

Jesus, the Christ, is calling us to a new lifestyle! We are being called away from a life of selfishness unto a spirit of Christ-like love! It is the lifestyle of the "Spiritual Rich and Famous." It is the lifestyle of a Christian disciple, to live every day in the spirit of self-giving sacrificial love! It is the kind of love that sent Jesus voluntarily to the "Old Rugged Cross" at Calvary to die an excruciatingly painful death, by crucifixion, for you and for me just so that we could be safe in the arms of Almighty God!