

FOLLOW HIS STEPS

1st Peter 2:20-25

Introduction: Years ago, I read a book that caused me to think about its contents many times. The book was entitled In His Steps. It was about a church, that was visited by a homeless man in the Sunday Morning service. His visit caused a personal battle in the life of the preacher. The man died and his death changed most of the lives of the members of the church including the preacher's life. The Sunday following the man's death, the pastor issued this challenge to any member who would take this vow: They would not do anything during the year that they did not ask themselves this question: "What would Jesus do in this situation?" Needless to say it changed many peoples' lives. Think on what impact that this question would have on our lives if we followed this question honestly before the Lord. It would changed this church and could cause a revival in this town that would be worth the news in the town. But following Christ's steps is not cheap; it costs to serve Jesus. Following His steps could mean suffering, shame, sickness and sorrow.

There is a vast difference between walking in His steps and following His steps. His steps can mean pain. His step can mean pain, problems and prosecutions.

Our text in verse twenty-one says **"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps"**.

We are called to see the example of Christ and to see His walk. He becomes our example, forerunner, and King. We hear Him. We call Him Lord because we have taken His yoke upon us. We have learned that He is meek and lowly, and we come to realize what it is to learn from Him, and from His walk of life.

We must see the blessedness of those who hear His words and do them. They do them from the heart. To those people Jesus says in Matthew chapter seven and verses twenty-four and twenty-five. **"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:" "And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock."**

Do you see that the "sayings" of our Lord Jesus, or the Word of God, is the rock, or the foundation, upon which our walk must correspond? It is upon the Word of God that we must build our walk of life. We build upon Him and His "sayings" as our foundation, not upon ourselves. That becomes the graciousness; when all the storms come against us and beat upon us, we will stand the test and not fall because we built upon the authority of the Word of God. Are you found walking "his steps" today? Have you taken his yoke upon you? What other alternative is there for a true believer?

My desire in this message is to encourage you to follow His steps. To follow His steps means to understand His life. But it is more than understanding His life. It is living His life through you. When people see us that they see Jesus in us.

There will three things that we must do while we are following in His steps.

I. FOLLOWING HIS STEPS TO PERSONAL SACRIFICE

Matthew 16:24

"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

A. Personal Sacrifice will mean loss of time.

Ephesians 5:16

"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

Time is the one thing that you and I can not get back. Our bosses pay us for the time that we work but that does not get back our time. It means to buy up the time that others throw away. Only the Lord can repay you for your time. When we get to heaven, we will be repaid for our time in His services.

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- B. Personal Sacrifice may mean loss of treasure.

Matthew 6:19-21

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:" "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:" "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

What do I mean by treasure? I am talking about money. It is God's word that tells us to give.

Luke 6:38

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

How do we give our treasures to the Lord? God's plan has always been tithes and offerings.

Malachi 3:8-10

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings." "Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation." "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

Some have learned the blessings of following the Word of God. Others have not learned to follow all of the Word of God.

II. FOLLOWING HIS STEPS TO PROFITABLE SERVANTHOOD.

Philippians 2:5-8

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:" "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:" "But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:" "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

Matthew 10:24

"The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord."

Our Lord was always a servant. He served people in some many ways. His first miracle showed that He was a servant of God. He spent His last hours being a servant. Let's look at one of these together quickly.

John 13:4-9

"He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself." "After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded." "Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?" "Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter." "Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me." "Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head."

The meal is over and Jesus takes the towel and a basin of water and washes the feet of the disciples. In most of the homes that that were observing the Passover, the servants would have done this. The host would not never do this. But Jesus showed us that there is nothing that any of us should not do when it comes to the work of the church. We have no greater example than our Lord Jesus. When we are servants, then we are walking His steps.

What are some of the characteristics should be seen in our lives as a servant of our Lord? We should have an undying love for God, His Word, His Work. We should have an unceasing looking for His coming. Just any day our Lord is coming and His face we see.

III. FOLLOWING HIS STEPS TO PERFECT SUBMISSION

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Matthew 26:36-42

"Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder." "And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy." "Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me." "And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." "And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?" "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." "He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done."

Once again we look at our Lord. If you will walk His steps, then you must and I repeat be in perfect submission to whatever that we should. We should be in perfect submission to His will. This means we should know when we should stop or go.

Psalm 37:23

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way."

The Lord can tell us when we should go or stop. This means that we are in tune with Him. This is not possible if you don't read the Word of God, pray, stay in the church. Here is a good rule to remember. You can never give a Gospel tract to the wrong person but when you are in tune with the Lord, there are times that the Lord will impress you to give a certain person a tract. When you realize that the Lord has impressed you to give that tract, then do so. But if you don't have any with you then you can not give that person a tract.

We should be perfect submission to His Word. This means that we are resting on His promises. His promises are based upon Himself. His promises are found within the pages of this Bible. His promises are always true. It is said that there are over three thousand promises and we should go looking for them regularly. But you can not rest upon the promises of God if you do not read the Bible.

We should have perfect submission to His Wisdom.

James 1:5

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

There are some questions that we can ask ourselves to see if we are in submission to His Will. Am I willing to do what the Lord wants to do even if no one else listens to me? When Jonah showed up, he did not expect anyone to hear him but God was merciful to the people of Nineveh and they repented and God spared them from judgment.

Secondly, am I willing to do what the Lord wants me to do even if my family will not go with me? Many men and women have learned how be submissive to God's will even when their family does not follow.

Last of all am I willing to do what the Lord wants me to do even if it cost me my very life? Eleven of the twelve disciples gave their lives for the Gospel. If it had not been for them, we would be lost. But they willingly give themselves to the work of the ministry so folks could get saved.

Conclusion: Following His steps takes commitment, consecration and cross carrying. You will make one of two choices today: Following His Steps or Stumble away from His steps. The choice is yours to make.