



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Follow Me

SPEAKER Pastor Henson Lim

THEME Kingdom Quest

DATE 18 & 19 Jan 2020

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Pastor Henson Lim's sermon has a simple message – Follow Me (Jesus Christ). What does following Jesus Christ entail? Contrary to the modern understanding of “follow” popularised by social media, following our Lord has a far deeper implication for the Christian believer. Based on the passage in Matthew 4:18-22, this sermon will unpack the true meaning of being a follower of Jesus Christ.

DISCIPLESHIP- STUDENT, LEARNER, PUPIL & FOLLOWER

1) What does it mean to *be* a disciple?

The root word of 'disciple' means student, learner, pupil and follower. For this sermon, the working definition is someone who is following someone else so that he can learn something from him. As a Christian, there is no difference between being a believer and being a disciple. When a person believes in Jesus Christ, he is following and learning from Jesus.

2) What does following Jesus Christ entail?

Using the passage from John 1:35-42, Ps Henson pointed out it was not the first encounter between Jesus and Peter, Andrew, James and John when Jesus called the four from their boats to follow him (Matthew 4:18 & 21). He suggests that a call to discipleship entails an invitation from Jesus to the next level of commitment and faith. Jesus is always inviting us to the next level of discipleship. Will you go deeper and let go of something to draw closer to our Lord?

3) What happened when we follow Jesus Christ?

Whenever we follow our Master, the Master can realign our expertise and experience for His use. For example, Jesus promised to transform the four fishermen to “fishers of men” when they follow him. Another prominent example is Paul who was a highly educated in Old Testament theology and a Hebrew of the Hebrews. When Paul followed Jesus, our Lord realigned his expertise and experience mightily for His Kingdom.

4) How to qualify to be a follower of Jesus Christ?

The biggest challenge for believers is the feeling of being unqualified to be followers of Jesus Christ. It is by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ, that qualifies believers for salvation. When Jesus Christ saves us, we are also disciples of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ qualifies us, not by our own merit.

5) Prior, personal and promised experience when we follow our Lord

All believers have prior experiences with our Saviour and Lord. Our experiences with Jesus are personal. Our Lord also promised to take believers to the next level with Him. The four disciples – Peter, Andrew, James and John were able to drop everything because they already have personal encounters with Jesus Christ.

In addition, they were able to drop everything to follow him because of the promise of the kingdom. Jesus invited them on the quest for the kingdom of God.

6) What can hold us back from following Jesus Christ?

What are the possible things that could hold us back from following Jesus? Ps Henson pointed out three things from Matthew 4:20-22. Firstly, they are entanglements and entrapments of the world symbolised by nets. Secondly, they are our assets and securities symbolised by the boat. Lastly, they are our relationships and comfort zones as symbolised by their father.

7) What does it mean to follow Jesus Christ?

What does it truly mean to follow Jesus Christ? In the original language, “follow me” in Matthew 4:19 means coming after Jesus. Then when Peter and Andrew dropped everything to follow Jesus in Matthew 4:20, the meaning of follow changes to coming alongside Jesus. Therefore, in our discipleship journey, there is a shift from coming after Jesus Christ to coming alongside our Lord to co-labour with Him.

8) Is there any difference between a Christian and a follower of Jesus Christ?

Bill Hull stated when the distinction of disciple and Christian disappears, so does the damaging belief in a two-tiered church. In God’s kingdom, there is no difference between a Christian and a disciple. If you believe in Jesus Christ, you are to learn from Him by coming alongside Him as He takes you on a journey of discipleship.

CONCLUSION

The speaker concluded by highlighting the fact that the word ‘disciple’ was mentioned 274 times in the first five books of the New Testament and there is no mention in the rest of the New Testament. He suggested there is no need to mention the word ‘disciple’ after the first five books of the New Testament. This is because there is no distinction between a believer and disciple in Christ.

QUESTIONS

1. What does a disciple of Jesus do? What is the way of life associated with discipleship?

2. Reflect on your prior experiences with God. Share how God's faithfulness came through for you in the past. In what ways did God use your prior experience and expertise for His use?

3. What is holding you back from following Jesus Christ? Of the three (a. entanglements & entrapments, b. assets & securities and c. relationships & comfort zone), which do you find difficult to let go? What is a change you can make to align closer with God?