JESUS SAYS

Follow, Part 1

Pastor Ken Ritz * May 22, 2016 * New Life Vineyard Church

Jesus used various word pictures for relationship:

- Father/child
- Vine/branches
- Shepherd/sheep

But his primary word for relationship was:

• _____

As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "<u>Follow</u> me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. Matthew 9:9

Jesus didn't make it conditional:

- if you follow me you must <u>stop</u>...
- if you follow me you must start...
- if you follow me you must give up...

The Christian life is a life of following Christ.

The question you need to ask yourself is, Am I following?

- Currently.
- Actively.

While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him... Matthew 9:10

When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners? On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice. For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." Matthew 9:11-13 Pharisees: "Change and you can join us!" Jesus: "Join us and you will change."

Four Things We Learn About Jesus' Invitation To Follow

- 1. Being a _____ doesn't disqualify you, it's a prerequisite.
- 2. Being an _____doesn't disqualify you. (None of Jesus' earliest followers believed.)
- 3. The invitation to follow is an invitation to
- 4. Following forces me to focus on where ____, rather than where _____.

The question is not, "How far along are you in the journey?" but rather, "Are you following?"