

“Follow Me”

Luke 9:23-25

This is a hard, hard passage. JESUS used this challenge to separate those who would choose to stop following HIM, and those who would follow HIM to the very end.

John 6:60-67

JESUS said,

1. “If _____,” (CHRIST’s invitation to 4 hard decisions)

- A. This is an invitation with strong _____, that most people will not accept.
- B. But it is the greatest _____ of all invitations. Anyone can accept this.
- C. As C.S. Lewis called this, it is a _____. The higher up one is called, the _____ it becomes. This Journey never gets _____.
- D. As Abram was called of GOD in Genesis 12:1, he was called to _____.
_____. Abram’s sole consolation was, “I will make you a _____.”

2. “Would come _____”

- A. Is this a _____ decision? OR is it a decision that must be _____?
- B. JESUS asks: Will you keep following ME, _____ what? Will you stay true in spite of _____, difficulty, heartbreak, and _____?
- C. It is not a problem to follow ... _____ HE asks me to

3. “Let him _____” (the hard part)

- A. We either _____ ourselves, or _____ ourselves, in every situation.
- B. As HE asks us to deny ourselves, our flesh simultaneously _____,
“No, _____” “Surely, not, LORD?” “That’s _____, GOD” **Gal.5:17**
- C. The big problem is our flesh wants to _____. Lordship means
HE _____.
- D. Plus our _____, the Devil, tells us: **Luke 4:1-13**
 - 1. “You know what is _____ for your life.” (feeding our _____)
 - 2. “You don’t have to deny yourself. _____ for yourself. If you don’t take care of yourself, no one else will.”
 - 3. “You can’t _____. (feeding our _____) HE doesn’t have your best interests at heart. Don’t let GOD _____ you.”
 - 4. “GOD is asking way _____ of you.” (why a lot of people stop following)
- E. “Pastor, will GOD make me deny myself?” _____.

- F. But freedom comes in _____, not in _____. We surrender our _____ to HIM. HE gives them back to us as _____, but in HIS time, and in HIS way, which then gives us a heart of _____ and builds our _____.
- G. Living for yourself ... is not a _____. HE cannot use a Servant, who _____, and not his Master.

4. "Pick up _____ ... daily" Galatians 2:20, Romans 6

- A. The Jews knew what picking up your cross meant. The Romans may have crucified _____ over a period of time in Israel.
- B. If you pick up (accept, embrace) a cross, you are _____ to your own death.
- C. "Daily" means death to our _____, death to our rights, to our _____, to our future, to our ability to _____, to our need for recognition, dying to life the _____, or see it.
- D. The _____ that is alive to doing my will, _____ GOD can do in me, and through me.
- E. This is the bulk of our problems. HE asks, " _____, will you die to yourself, so I can _____ in you?" It is a simple: YES, or NO. Rom.12:1-2

5. "And _____ ME." Isaiah 55:8-9

- A. JESUS says "follow ME" – _____ in the Gospels.
- B. In our relationship with JESUS there _____ be two leaders. Either HE leads and I _____. OR I lead and then I am _____, off the road, by myself, having made a mess of my life. HE is not going to _____.
- C. **JESUS knows: Acts 8:4-8, 26-40** (This made _____ to Philip)
1. The _____. You do not.
 2. Where you will have the greatest _____. You do not.
 3. Where _____ people are waiting. You do not.
 4. How to utilize your _____ for your maximum fulfillment. You do not.
- D. It _____ you to obey GOD. It costs you _____ to not obey GOD.

