

## **Follow Me (John 1:29-51)**

**Pastor Deric**

*(29) The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! (30) This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' (31) I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water; that he might be revealed to Israel." (32) And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. (33) I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' (34) And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."*

*(35) The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, (36) and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" (37) The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. (38) Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" (39) He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. (40) One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. (41) He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). (42) He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).*

*(43) The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." (44) Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. (45) Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." (46) Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." (47) Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" (48) Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." (49) Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" (50) Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." (51) And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." [John 1:29-51 ESV]*

## **Practical Application**

1. Follow Jesus.
2. Point others to Jesus.
3. Only Jesus can take away your sin, guilt, shame, fear, and all its consequences.
4. Jesus has ultimate authority over evil, sin, death, the evil one, nature, sickness, you, and everything else.
5. God has shown us the way of salvation. Believe.
6. If you have never been baptized in water you should be. But, even more important than that, you need to be baptized/indwelt by God's Spirit.
7. Jesus is the Son of God through whom we find salvation.
8. We all follow someone. We all listen to someone's ideas, perspective, and words. Who is your #1 teacher?
9. We are all influenced by what we see (are shown), what we hear, what we read, and who we spend time with. Who is your greatest influence?
10. Where do you go for direction, knowledge, wisdom, truth, hope, and love? Who do you trust? Who's words do you listen to and believe the most?
11. Follow Jesus. Listen to Jesus. Look to Jesus. Trust in Jesus. Love Jesus, because He first loved you.
12. What do you want most in life? What are you seeking?
13. Seek Jesus.

14. Come to Jesus.
15. Tell others about Jesus and invite them to “come and see” and learn more about Him with you.
16. Our church should have a “come and see” and a “go and tell” ministry (Attractional and Missional, Inviting and Investing).
17. Jesus was the manliest man ever, and the most loving man ever.
18. Jesus called men (and women) to follow him.
19. Tell your family, friends, co-workers, and all you know about how great Jesus is. Introduce those you love to Him.
20. Only Jesus can change you from the inside out. Only Jesus can change your name, identity, character, future, life, and eternity.
21. Jesus is on the move today seeking and saving the lost. Will you join Him?
22. What are you doing and where are you going to find the lost, hurting, and hopeless?
23. The entire Bible is about Jesus.
24. God uses people from everywhere, anywhere, and “nowhere.”
25. Bring your doubts, questions, hurt, and sin to Jesus.
26. Jesus knows you better than you know yourself. Jesus loves you more than anyone else loves you.
27. Following Jesus is the greatest way to live. Following Jesus will enable you to see the greatness of God at work in the world, in your life, and through your life.
28. Jesus is the way to God, He is the way to heaven. Follow Jesus.

### **Announcements**

- Celebrate Christmas with us this December! Invite others to join us.
- Be praying for our Men’s Ministry (January 8, 11:45-1:00pm) and an expanded Small Group Ministry (January 14, 5:00-6:30pm) for 2023.
- Wednesday Nights (6:30-7:30): Adult Small Group (Theology) and Children’s Awana Christmas Party this week.
- Hope Mountain Youth: Christmas Party this week (Dec. 14, 6:30).
- Mighty Oaks: Soul Wars: A Christmas Story is tonight at 6pm.