

HOW JESUS MINISTERED

A LOOK AT JESUS FOLLOWING

"... when the people had heard thereof, they followed him on foot out of the cities. And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude..."

~ Matthew 14:13-14

1. Jesus Followers

- a. It's popular for Christians to identify as Jesus-followers, and preach following Jesus
- b. They pattern the ministry of Jesus to create other followers: Jesus films, dramas
- c. Christians for centuries have tried to recreate walking in his steps – 1 Pet 2:21
- d. Charles Sheldon in his book by the same name made famous: WWJD?
- e. The spiritualization of Matt 4:19 has left people creating their own image of Jesus
 - i. Q: If we are fishing for men, is bait and switch an acceptable method?
- f. What if the Bible presented something different about how Jesus ministered?

2. How They Followed Jesus

- a. His followers followed on foot, not with their lives, or on Facebook – Matt 14:13
- b. Following Jesus meant leaving their nets - Matt 4:19-22, Luke 5:10
- c. Jesus had an entourage, and multitudes literally following him – Matt 8:1, 8:10
- d. How can all the multitudes fit in Peter's house? – Matt 8:14,18? → Mark 1:29-33
- e. Jesus followed other people, and the disciples followed Jesus → Matt 9:19
- f. People wanted to literally follow him into a literal kingdom – Luke 15:57-62
- g. Following him meant forsaking family, career, money – Luke 14:25-33, Matt 19:21

3. Where Jesus Led Them

- a. He never left Israel, he ministered to the circumcision – Matt 10:23, Rom 15:8
- b. He went to synagogues, not churches, but Jewish synagogues – Luke 4:15
- c. He went to the Jewish temple and tried to defend its proper use – John 2:16

4. Why They Followed Him

- a. Why follow his literal footsteps, why forsake all, how did he get multitudes?
 - i. Church growth experts spend there time with this question.
- b. Did they follow because he was deferential, loving, and washed behind his ears?
- c. *"what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment?"* – Luke 7:25
- d. They followed him because of his miracles – Mark 1:14-28, Matt 4:23-25
- e. The one thing Jesus did to gain multitudes is not found in church growth books.
- f. The miracles were done because of the message being taught – Luke 10:1-10
- g. We do not, we cannot, grow the church the way Jesus ministered to Israel.

5. What is our Pattern?

- a. The gospel of the kingdom is not our gospel of grace which was given to Paul
- b. Christ has made Paul our pattern of the gospel and ministry – 1 Tim 1:16
- c. Paul's pattern is the Lord's pattern today - 1 Cor 4:17, 1 Cor 11:1, 2 Thess 3:7-9
- d. Our pattern is by preaching the faith of Christ, not by sight – 2 Cor 5:7