

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

Scripture Text:

This lesson will serve as a start to a series of lessons on Sunday Mornings in which we will look at each verse of the invitation song "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" and make an application to our current spiritual state. This morning, we will begin with the first verse.

We all have decisions to make in life, and they range from youngest to oldest. It might be something as simple as deciding between Coke or Pepsi, Superman or Spiderman, your career, where you will live, who you will marry (the 2nd most important decision in your life), or to follow Jesus (1st most important).

These decisions affect us in every aspect of our life: (now) today, tomorrow, 5 years, 45 years, eternity.

Making important decisions:

1. Educate yourself
2. Count the cost
3. What are the benefits?
4. What are the consequences?

1. What are the benefits of deciding to follow Jesus?

- A. Put on Christ, Gal. 3:27
- B. Have Christian Fellowship, I John 1:7
- C. God **adds** you to the Church, Acts 2:47
- D. Walk in newness of life, Rom. 6:4
- E. Have access to God, Jn. 14:6
- F. Have hope, Col. 1:27
- G. No fear of death, Heb. 9:27
- H. Peace in Life, Rom. 8:6
- I. Sins are forgiven, Acts 2:38
- J. Continued forgiveness of sins, I John 1:9
- K. Receive the gifts of the Holy Ghost, Acts 2:38
- L. Become saved, I Pet. 3:21
- M. Spend Eternity in Heaven with Jesus, John 14:1-5

2. What is the cost of deciding to follow Jesus?

- A. Repent and Turn away from sin.
- B. Must worship God.
- C. Must study the Bible.
- D. Must share God with others.
- E. Must do good to all men.
- F. Must give of riches.
- G. Be willing to put God first.
- H. Be willing to love and forgive others.
- I. Must submit to the Will of God.
- J. Must remain faithful until death.

- Some examples:

- Ethiopian Eunuch, Acts 8
- 3000 in Jerusalem, Acts 2
- Cornelius, Acts 10
- Saul, Acts 22

3. What are the consequences of not following Jesus?

- A. Not a member of the Lord's church
- B. No Christian fellowship
- C. No access to the Blood of Christ Jesus
- D. Your sins remain with you
- E. No peace
- F. No hope
- G. Suffering in Hell for an Eternity!

Here comes the important part, making the decision.

I Pet. 3:20,21 – God wanted for Noah to build the ark, baptism now saves you and cleans the conscience. What is a good conscience? Knowing why and what you are doing and knowing that it is pleasing to God and is the right thing to do.

- Don't make this decision because you have friends who are doing it or because someone else has told you to.

- The decision is for you to decide because **YOU** are following Him. You are the only one who can make this decision. The question is, are you making this decision? Have you thought at all about this decision?

Become a Christian! Make that decision and follow Jesus on a daily basis, and it will pay off.

Repent of your sins and return to God! It is not too late to come back to God and start following Him once again!

If we can help in any way, please come as we stand and sing.

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Post Office Box 292 · Woodbury TN 37190
thejustinreedshow.com/bibleresources

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