

Decided to Follow Though None Go With Me, I Still Will Follow

Scripture Text: Mt. 26:31-35

This lesson is the second in a series of lessons looking at the invitation song "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus." Last week, we covered the first verse; this week, we will look at the second verse of "Though none go with me, I still will follow."

When we sing the invitation song, do we really mean the words when we sing them, or are they just empty verses?

Peter makes the same statement that we do in Mt. 26:31-35. Peter says that he will follow Jesus no matter what, but we know the rest of the story and know that he and the rest of the Apostles left Him.

Are you ready to follow Jesus **NO MATTER WHAT?** It takes three things:

1. Faith

A. Verses:

- Heb. 11:1,6

- II Cor. 5:7

B. Noah

- Gen. 6: God has decided to destroy the world, but He has chosen to save Noah and his family. What allowed Noah to do this?

1. Reverent fear, v.7. We need to have this kind of fear in regards to God as well.

2. A Righteous Heart. Noah continually thought about that which is pleasing to God. Do we?

C. Do we have the faith of Noah that we are going to do what pleases God no matter what? We need that kind of faith.

2. Courage

A. Think about the story of David and Goliath.

B. Where did David's courage come from?

1. His love and respect for God, II Sam. 17:26.

2. David's conviction that God was with him, II Sam. 17:34. Courage is the willingness to stand alone for God, II Tim 1:7, Deut. 31:6, I Pet. 3:13-14.

- Remember **Romans 1:16.**

3. Gratitude

A. Simply being thankful for what has been given to us. Some people in this world just simply aren't thankful.

B. The family of Andrew Carnegie, when he passed away, they gave his nephew \$1 Million and \$360 Million to charity, used the name of Andrew Carnegie. We need to be thankful for what we are given.

C. Think about the story of the ten lepers, Luke 17:11-19.

D. The Apostle Paul had **NO** gratitude problems – II Cor. 11:23-27. Why was he willing to give up everything? Gratitude, I Tim. 1:12-15.

E. Why was Paul so grateful?

1. Because he was chosen of God

- II Tim 1:9

- I Pet. 2:9

2. Because God showed him mercy

- Rom. 5:8

- John 3:16

Jesus put Himself on the cross for us.

What does it take for one to follow no matter what?

1. Faith. Do we have it?
2. Courage. Do we have it?
3. Gratitude. Do we have it?

Even though the Apostle Peter denied Christ, he went on to serve God and even give his life for Christ. From this we learn a very valuable lesson: even when we mess up or fall away, we still have ample opportunity and time to come back to God and serve Him.

Are you willing to be the only one who follows Jesus? Even if everyone else in the world is leaving you and forsaking you, are you willing to follow Jesus? It is going to be worth it when we receive our reward. Always keep this in mind.

Have you decided to follow Jesus? No- consider it; Yes-

Are you willing to follow even if no one else around you is?

Seriously consider following Jesus and continuing to press on.

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

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July 14, 2013 AM Wood Church of Christ