

## Following Jesus

### (Part 1)

***“<sup>16</sup> And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” <sup>18</sup> They immediately left their nets and followed Him.” (Mark 1:16-18)***

When Jesus called Simeon He told him, ***“Follow me and I will make you ....”*** The point here is this: Jesus will make of you something good.... If you follow Him. Many people they are busy in their lives to achieve certain things and reach certain goals. But they forget that themselves they cannot do anything for themselves unless Jesus do that for them. Jesus clearly said the following, ***“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:8)*** So apart from Jesus you can do nothing. If you refuse to follow him then you end up with no achievement and no progress in life.

When Jesus called Simeon he immediately left everything and followed Him. That impart to us the following: when Jesus is calling us we are somehow and somewhat busy in doing certain things and our hands are holding something. But when he calls us, to response to His call we need to leave what is in our hands so we can receive the new things that He is preparing to us to receive. Many they do not like to give up what is in their hands. But how they will receive the new blessings of God if they are unwilling to put aside what is in their hands. For God to make you something ..... you need to give up what is in your hand and follow God’s call.

I am not telling you, ‘to follow Jesus is leave your job as Peter left the nets,’ but to leave the things that you need to leave so you can follow Christ; you need to leave the things that contradict His will and His word so you can receive the new blessings in Christ.

When Jesus said to Peter ***“Follow me and I will make you ....”*** His plan for Peter was to promote him, lift him up and upgrade him. Every time God is calling us, there is promotion for us to a higher level. If we respond and follow Jesus then we can receive that.

We follow the LORD by following His word and the leading of the Holy Spirit. If we fail to follow the command of the LORD then we are no more in the correct path and that will entail regress and no progress in our lives.

***“<sup>19</sup> When He had gone a little farther from there, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the boat mending their nets. <sup>20</sup> And immediately He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went after Him.” (Mark 1:19-20)*** Jesus is calling other people to follow Him because He wants to bless them by making them something good. The purpose of this message that God is calling you to bless you, makes you something good and a blessing to others.

***“Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” (John 8:12)*** Jesus said that whoever follow Him will not live in darkness but in the light. What is darkness? Some may answer and say, life in sin is living in darkness. That is correct. So to follow Christ is to live away from sin. Also darkness it have another meaning. To live in darkness, is to live without light, then you

will not be able to find the right way and the correct direction. If you cannot see, then you cannot move and you cannot progress. And the worse if there is no light to see the direction, you may move and go backward and regress dramatically. Those who do not follow the LORD they are in darkness. They have no clear where to go. When you speak to them they don’t have sense of direction, they don’t have clear vision or proper plan; when you observe their lives then you will find no fruit and no progress.

The same Peter he lost his focus on the LORD after Christ crucifixion and His resurrection from the death. He went to the nets that he left (He went back to his old life) and went away from following Christ. ***“<sup>1</sup>Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: <sup>2</sup> Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. <sup>3</sup> “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. <sup>4</sup> Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup> He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?” “No,” they answered.” (John 21:1-4)*** The first question Jesus asked them was the following: ***“Friends, haven’t you any fish?”*** As if Jesus was telling them indirectly and especially to Peter, ‘What you had achieved being away from following me?’ No achievement for us if we move away from following Christ. Then the next thing that the LORD did, He instructed them with the following: ***“<sup>6</sup> He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.” (John 21:6)*** Jesus with such help to His disciples He was calling them once again to trust Him and follow Him. He was reminding them that they cannot manage their lives and their living without following him. ***“<sup>10</sup> Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” <sup>11</sup> So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn.” (John 21:10-11)*** So 153 big fish in one day is a large amount of income and that will be result for you if you decide to follow Christ and walk in His ways and according to His word. Not only spiritual blessing but material blessings you will gain if you decide to follow Christ.

***“<sup>12</sup> Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.” (John 21:12-13)*** The Lord comforted His disciples and He encouraged them to follow Him once again.

***My dear and beloved:*** The same is doing now to you. God is calling you to follow Him and walk faithfully in His ways, then you will be able to achieve good things; for the LORD Himself will work out that to you. You will be able to see clearly with the Holy Spirit and will have a vision and a sense of direction as you follow Christ.

***My prayer:*** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose again from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I will leave \_\_\_\_\_ what you ask me to leave, and the sin that I entangle with \_\_\_\_\_, and I will follow you to live in the light, to see clearly the way and to enjoy your good plan for me. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.