



Love. Grow. Serve.

"Where the Word of life gathers, nurtures, and sends us forth to serve."

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What Comes after "Follow Me"?

During this Lenten season, our midweek services have been drawing on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. We are seeking to learn what it means to "Follow Jesus" in our living--our attitudes, thinking, and action. We want to grow in practicing our discipleship. In my estimation, this is a worthwhile endeavor, for I believe we want to be faithful--and most importantly, believe that Jesus is truly worth following.

To answer the question, "What Comes after 'Follow Me'?" is really important. As our midweek messages have sought to emphasize, following Jesus changes the way we live. Life is not the same, when Jesus is our Leader. Instead of having our own goals driving us, we have Jesus' wisdom and love guiding us.

Two examples will illustrate this. Instead of being concerned about what other people might think of us, our major concern is "what does my heavenly Father want from me." We don't need to put on a show with our prayers and charity. Secure in the Father's love, our number one concern is to express our relationship with Him. A second example: rather than worrying and being anxious, we can face forward confidently because of the Father's loving care. Following Jesus makes the difference!

Who is this Jesus who is asking us to follow Him? Where is He headed? And why does that make the difference for us? In the coming weeks, we will follow Jesus as He makes His entrance into the holy city, Jerusalem. The crowds will greet Him, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" (Luke 19:38) These words tell us that Jesus has used royal authority to bless people with heaven's peace. He's heaven's kind of king!

Jesus has spent His life bringing the peace of God's love, wisdom, and forgiveness to us people, and now He will complete the task by going to the cross. There He will give His life as the Lamb of God to pay for the sins of the world. Evil forces have ganged up on Him, but that was God's plan, a truth that will be evident on Easter morning. Jesus' resurrection is the sign that the full payment has been made. There is peace between God and man. We can live with hope and confidence, joy and peace.

What comes after "Follow Me"? **Hope and confidence**. The last enemy, death itself, has been defeated. The grave does not have the last word. You and I can face our own death with hope, because Jesus lived and died for us. Death becomes the gate to everlasting joy.

Because Jesus has perfectly pursued God's plan for His life from A to Z, and gives us the victory over the grave, we can be comforted on the death of loved ones who have died in the Lord. They are with the Lord now. They will be raised from the grave. There will be a grand reunion of all Christ's people! Jesus' empty tomb calls us to rejoice in His triumph.

Further, Jesus' successful completion of His journey all the way to the end, signals you and me to be confident. With the fear of death conquered, we can heed the call of the Apostle Paul at the end of his great resurrection chapter: "Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." (1 Cor. 15:58). Jesus' resurrection calls us to serve!

In these coming weeks, let's follow the One who called to us, "Follow Me." By worshiping together we relive what Jesus did to achieve eternal salvation for us--and that will enable us to live life His way!

Pastor Michael

Our Special Services: Follow Jesus with us during the climax of His ministry--Palm Sunday, April 14 at 10:30 A.M.; Maundy Thursday, April 18 at 7:00 P.M. when we experience His institution of Holy Communion; Good Friday, April 19 at 7:00 P.M., when we observe His death on the cross for our sins; and Easter, April 21 with the Eucharist (Service of Thanksgiving) at 10:30 A.M. and our traditional Easter Breakfast at 9:00 A.M. COME to these special services to deepen your faith in what Christ has done.

Interested in Singing? Ruth McCaffrey invites all who would like to help provide some special music to enrich our special services to contact her at pqoe@hotmail.com or by calling her 561-254-5113. This will help make Holy Week and Easter worship special.