



Christ's Common Words and
their Uncommon Significance.

CLASS 2:
“YOU FOLLOW ME”

HYDE PARK & SOUTHERN VALES SPECIAL WEEKEND 2024



- “If you don’t know where you are going...
- how will you know when you get there?”



Survey Says! (42 responses)

How often do you pray?

- Several times a day. (31%)
- 2-5 times a day. (29%)
- At least once a day. (24%)
- Not every day, but regularly. (14%)
- I'd prefer not to answer this question. (2%)

What percentage of your major life choices do you commit to prayer before making a decision? (Schooling, Career, Marriage, Relocation, etc)

- 100% (19%)
- 75-99% (24%)
- 50-74% (33%)
- Less than 50% (24%)
- I prefer not to answer. (0%)

Lazarus

- John 11:43-44 “And when he [Jesus] thus had spoken [prayed], he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, **come** forth.”
- “And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin...
- ... Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him **go**.”



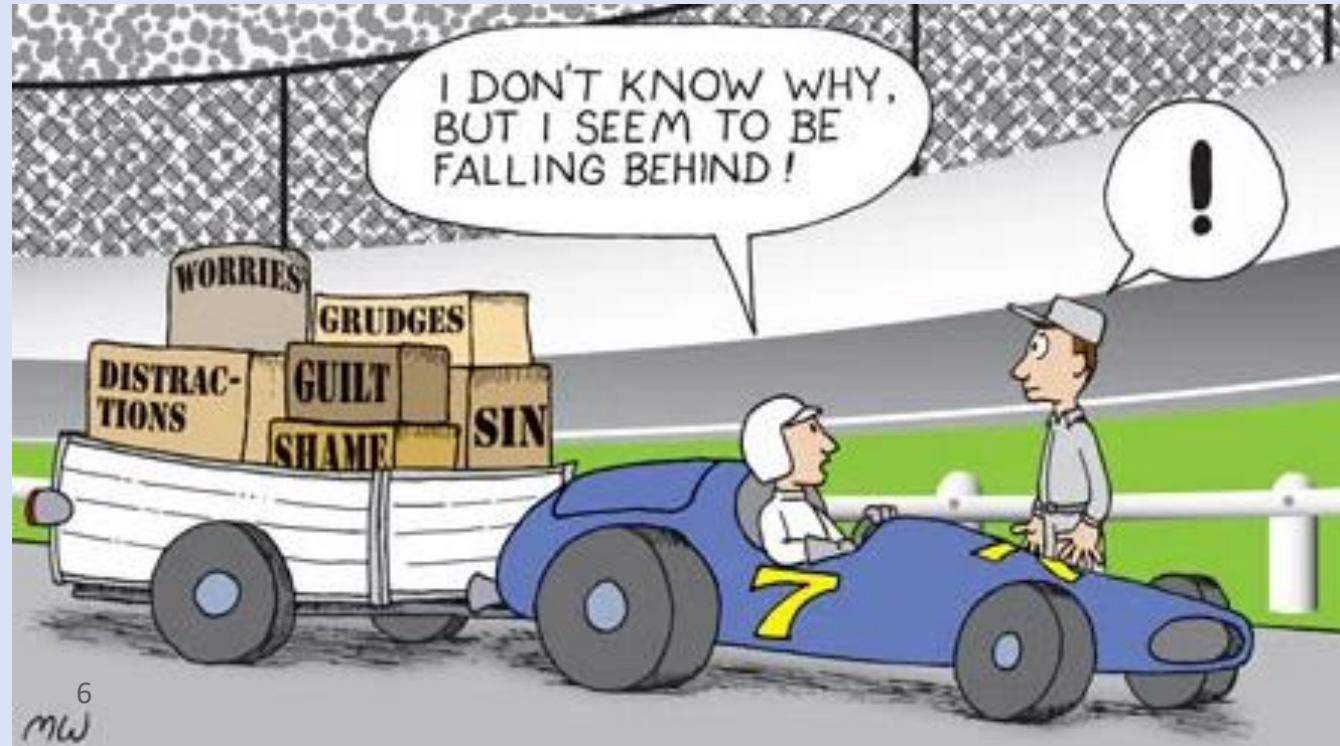
- Hebrews 12:1-2 “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us **lay aside** every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us **run** with patience the race that is set before us, **looking** unto Jesus...”

The need to unburden

Philippians 3:12-17 “... I **follow** after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, **forgetting** those things which are behind, and **reaching forth** unto those things which are before, I **press** toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus... let us **walk** by the same rule, let us mind the same thing. Brethren, be **followers** together of me, and mark them which **walk** so as ye have us for an ensample.”

Implications:

- ✓ Don't let past mistakes hold you back
- ✓ Don't let negative criticism hinder your service to the Lord
- ✓ Don't hold grudges that destroy relationships



Don't look back

- Luke 9:62 “And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”
- Luke 17:31-33 “In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back...”



➤ Remember Lot's wife.

- Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.”

Implications:

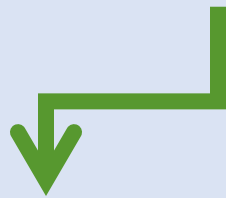
- ✓ Get rid of anything hindering your walk in the Truth
- ✓ Reflect: Could you leave it all behind when the call comes?



Some 'Follow me' passages

Matthew 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him **deny himself**, and take up his cross **daily**, and follow me.

- Luke 23:26 And as they led him away, they laid hold upon one Simon, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it **after** Jesus.



from the rear, i.e. at the back

For whose
benefit was
this?!



Go... and follow!

Mark 10:52 And Jesus said unto him [the blind man], **Go** thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and **followed** Jesus in the way.

➤ 1 Peter 2: 21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should **follow** his steps.

Implications?

- ✓ Believe like Jesus
- ✓ Pray like Jesus
- ✓ Trust like Jesus
- ✓ Obey like Jesus
- ✓ Preach like Jesus
- ✓ Serve like Jesus
- ✓ Sacrifice like Jesus



Answer the call – no excuses



- Matthew 8:22; Luke 9:59 And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me **first** to go and bury my father. But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.

Implications:

- ✓ Seek ye **FIRST**.....

IF IT IS IMPORTANT
TO YOU, YOU WILL
FIND A WAY.

IF NOT
YOU'LL FIND
AN EXCUSE

Don't be overconfident in your own abilities!

- John 13:36-38 Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, whither goest thou? Jesus answered him, Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterwards.
- **Peter said** unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake.
- **Jesus answered** him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice.

Implications:

- ✓ Trust in the Lord with all your heart....
- ✓ Honestly reflect on failures (Peter wept bitterly!



Peter & John – just worry about yourself!

John 21:19-22 (NKJV) This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."

- Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following... Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what about this man?"
- Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?"
 - **You follow Me."**



Implications:

- ✓ Don't compare your own abilities and service to others
- ✓ Love the Lord your God with all YOUR....

“Thy Kingdom Come... or My Kingdom Now???”

Education



- ✓ Proverbs 1:7 the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge...
- ✓ Is the College/University near an Ecclesia?
- ✓ Do other believers attend?
- ✓ Are there others options after High School?

Career Choice



- ✓ Colossians 3:23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men
- ✓ Can this career help in your service to Christ?
- ✓ Time for family & ecclesia?
- ✓ Opportunity to witness?

Partner



- ✓ Genesis 2:24 Man shall leave [everything] and be joined to his wife... (and vice versa)
- ✓ Will she/he help you get into the Kingdom?
- ✓ Do you bring out the best in each other spiritually?
- ✓ Does he/she love God MORE than they love you?

Proverbs 16:9 A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.

Preaching or Pleasure Seeking - Are we using our free time and resources for God or ourselves?



At least when you go on vacation:

- ✓ Visit local B&S
- ✓ Bible based trips (Bible Museum, Ark Encounter, Creation Museum,...)
- ✓ Small Campaign – include other family and friends



Philippians 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



Implications:

- ✓ Don't worry about ANYTHING
- ✓ Pray about EVERYTHING!

- YOUR ACTION PLAN:
- What do I have to 'put off' before following Jesus fully?
- What ONE thing can I do to be more like Jesus & follow his steps?



- What ONE thing can I change to ensure MY kingdom is not superseding God's Kingdom in my life?

- When I get home I am going to: _____



Let us pray

Lord, we come now boldly into your presence that we might be humbled by your grace and encouraged to go forth to follow your Son.

Please help us to be unburdened of the sin that can so easily beset us, and to keep our eyes focussed on Jesus as we follow him in the way.

Thank you for calling us. Thank you for forgiving us. Help us to share this good news with others. Help us to forgive others.

We don't always understand the plan you have for us, but we know you have one. And we know there is no one else we want to follow.

In Jesus name, Amen