

GREG'S NOTES

A NEW BEGINNING TEACHING OUTLINES

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FOLLOW ME

Matthew 9

What does it mean to be a follower of Christ? Jesus has a lot of so-called friends, but I wonder how many real followers He actually has. There are many people who admire Him as a great man, a heroic figure, or a learned teacher. But Jesus did not say, “Admire Me.” He said “Follow Me.”

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

1. **A follower of God follows Him each and every day.** You don't just start a relationship and then not follow through. It is an ongoing walk of friendship.
2. **A follower of Jesus cannot say goodbye to the old life fast enough.** Just like Matthew left all to follow Jesus, we should gladly forsake everything to keep in step with Him.
3. **A follower of Jesus loves other followers of Jesus.** Matthew was thrown in with a lot he would not have hung around with normally. He needed to love them and let them love him.
4. **A follower of Jesus cares about nonbelievers and wants to reach them.** Immediately after conversion, Matthew wanted to share with his friends.
5. **The true follower of Jesus should be able to say, “Follow me as I follow Christ.”** You are the only Bible some people are ever going to read. Christians are walking epistles written by God and read by men.

RELEVANT REMINDERS

- Jesus wants you to follow Him, but at the same time He desires your friendship and companionship.
- It's best to lay out our plans, aspirations, and hopes before the Lord, and let Him choose what is best for us. We must place His will above our own.

APPLICABLE ACTIONS

Matthew lost a career but he gained a destiny. He lost his material possessions but he gained a spiritual fortune. He lost his temporary security but he gained eternal life. He lost his emptiness and loneliness and found fulfillment and companionship. He gave up all the world has to offer and he found Jesus. The same is true for anyone who wholeheartedly obeys Jesus' call to “Follow Me.” Are you following Jesus today?