

RUSSELL SANDERS

5-3-2024

FOLLOW ME

During Jesus' earthly ministry he often said to certain people, **"follow me."** Examples are found in Matthew 4:19 as he called Peter and Andrew; in John 1:43 when he called Philip; Matthew 8:22 to an unnamed scribe; and another man in Luke 9:50; and doubtless many others.

Jesus gave them no promises of temporal [earthly] reward, security, or comfort. They were simply to trust him and follow. The promise he gave them was eternal life. In John 10:27 Jesus said, **"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them [who they are], and they follow me,"** and in vs. 28a **"I give unto them eternal life..."**

However, Jesus does have certain expectations [or requirements] of those who follow him. The main one is found in John 15:10-14, where he said in vs. 10, **"If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love..."** and verse 12, **"This is my commandment, that ye love one another..."** Then in verse 14, **"Ye are my friends, IF ye do whatsoever I command you."** This is emphasized by his words in John 13:34 when he instructed them with, **"A new commandment I give unto you [above and beyond the law of Moses] that ye love one another, as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."** (He repeated this for emphasis of extreme importance.)

If you love Jesus and follow him, there are other things he has instructed to those who choose to follow him. One such thing is found in Matthew 28:19-20 where he said, **"Go... teach all nations"** Then also in John 14:12 we are told to do all his works. Those works would include heal the sick, raise the dead, cast out demons, preach the gospel, and so forth. But most important is to show forth his love and to live a holy life (clean and righteous).

Following Jesus is not a piece of cake. It takes love and a firm resolve and firm commitment. It is to be our lifestyle. It is worth whatever we must go through because the reward for following him is eternal.