

[ALL IN]

Owasso First Assembly of God

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Are you a fully obedient follower of Jesus?

Luke 9:23-27 (ESV) ²³ *And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.* ²⁴ *For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.* ²⁵ *For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?* ²⁶ *For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.*

1. The gospels record the phrase “Follow me” **21** times. *(The gospels are not a comprehensive record of the life of Jesus—He probably spoke these words many other times)*
2. With this powerful yet **simple** phrase, Jesus invited ordinary people to join Him.
3. The offer is **all-inclusive**—it requires **complete** commitment and obedience.
4. Understanding the **depth** of this invitation will help us understand what it means to follow Jesus.

What you need to know: Following Jesus is the key to a productive life. He knows where the road leads.

1. Following Jesus requires decisive action

1. Not everyone accepted the call. Matt. 19:16-22 Mark 10:17-29 Matthew tells us he was young Known as RYR **Mark 10:17-29 (NLT2)** ¹⁷ As Jesus was starting out on his way to Jerusalem, a man came running up to him, knelt down, and asked, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁸ “Why do you call me good?” Jesus asked. “Only God is truly good. ¹⁹ But to answer your question, you know the commandments: ‘You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. You must not cheat anyone. Honor your father and mother.’” ²⁰ “Teacher,” the man replied, “I’ve obeyed all these commandments since I was young.” ²¹ Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. “There is still one thing you haven’t done,” he told him. “Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” ²² *At this the man’s face fell, and he went away very sad, for he had many possessions.* ²³ Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God!” ²⁴ This amazed them. But Jesus said again, “Dear children, it is very hard to enter the Kingdom of God. ²⁵ In

fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!”²⁶ The disciples were astounded. “Then who in the world can be saved?” they asked.²⁷ Jesus looked at them intently and said, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God.”

2. Some **hesitated** due to circumstance of life. Lack of comfort, impending commitments, inconvenience. **Luke 9:57-62 (NLT2)**⁵⁷ As they were walking along, someone said to Jesus, **“I will follow you wherever you go.”**⁵⁸ **But Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head.”**⁵⁹ He said to another person, **“Come, follow me.”** **The man agreed, but** he said, **“Lord, first** let me return home and bury my father.”⁶⁰ But Jesus told him, “Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead! Your duty is to go and preach about the Kingdom of God.”⁶¹ Another said, **“Yes, Lord, I will follow you, but first let me say good-bye to my family.”**⁶² But Jesus told him, “Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God.”

3. Peter, Andrew, James, and John left their fishing trade and began to follow Jesus immediately. **Matthew 4:18-22 (NLT2)**¹⁸ One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw **two brothers**—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—**throwing a net into the water, for**

they fished for a living. ¹⁹ Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” ²⁰ And they left their nets **at once** and followed him. ²¹ A little farther up the shore he saw two other brothers, James and John, sitting in a boat with their father, Zebedee, repairing their nets. And he called them to come, too. ²² They **immediately** followed him, **leaving the boat and their father behind.**

4. Matthew left his business, got up, and followed Jesus.

Luke 5:27-31 (NLT2) ²⁷ Later, as Jesus left the town, he saw a tax collector named Levi (Matthew) sitting at his tax collector’s booth. “Follow me and be my disciple,” Jesus said to him. ²⁸ So Levi got up, left everything, and followed him. ²⁹ Later, Levi held a banquet in his home with Jesus as the guest of honor. Many of Levi’s fellow tax collectors and other guests also ate with them. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and their teachers of religious law complained bitterly to Jesus’ disciples, “Why do you eat and drink with such scum?” ³¹ Jesus answered them, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do.

5. Philip and Nathaniel followed Jesus. John 1:43-51

2. Following Jesus demands total commitment

Luke 9:23-27 (ESV) ²³ *And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”*

1. Following Jesus demands **self-denial**. This is contrary to human nature.
2. Following Jesus means **taking up your cross daily**. This is more than carrying your fair share. This speaks of **humility** and **submission** to an **authority**. It speaks of rejection and unfairness in life.

Philippians 2:5-8 (GW) *⁵ Have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. ⁶ Although he was in the form of God and equal with God, he did not take advantage of this equality. ⁷ Instead, he emptied himself by taking on the form of a servant, by becoming like other humans, by having a human appearance. ⁸ He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, death on a cross.*

3. Following Jesus requires daily **renewal**. Follow Jesus everyday, everywhere and in every situation.

3. Following Jesus results in eternal blessing

- 1 Following Jesus provides **light** that leads to life.

John 8:12 (NLT2) *Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."*

2. Following Jesus provides new **purpose** and direction.

3. Following Jesus provides intimacy, eternal life, and security.

John 10:27-29 (NLT2) *²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, ²⁹ for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father's hand.*

If you are not following Jesus—you are on the wrong road.

Matthew 7:13-14 (NLT2) *¹³ “You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. ¹⁴ But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.*

If you are not following Jesus—you will be unproductive

2 Peter 1:8 (NIV) For if you possess these (Christlike) qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus is calling today, “Follow Me.” How will you respond?

What you need to do: Commit your life to following Jesus. Spend some time every morning recommitting control of your life to Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide all you do.