

I Want to Follow Jesus

Read Mark 8:27-38

Jesus needed His followers to understand where He was going and how He was going to get there. “Yes, I am the Messiah. But that doesn’t mean success and glory are just ahead. It means I am about to sacrifice My life for the salvation of others, for people who don’t understand it and don’t deserve it. And if you want to be My followers, you have to deny your own interests as I have, pick up your cross, and come with Me.”

Deny myself—it’s a noble thought, but what does it involve? It means I have to

- renounce my own interests completely
- be totally without regard for my advantage, comfort, and convenience
- give up dependence on my own knowledge and resources and depend only on the Father
- take my life and future out of my own hands and place them totally in His.

That’s easy to say but not easy to do. Life’s demands continually nag at my weaknesses. Fears and comforts pull me this way and that. How can I resist self-protection and self-concern? How can I follow Jesus straight into His storm of suffering?

But then I look at Him. I see the person He was and the way He lived. I see His peace, His patience, His sufficiency in every situation. I see His deep, constant relationship with the Father. I see His fearless, powerful, never-strained love. And I want to deny myself. I want to rid myself of this perpetual burden of petty self-concern. I want to pick up my own cross and follow Him wherever He goes. I want to be like Him. I say with the Apostle Paul:

I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him...I want to know Christ...and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.
(Philippians 3:8-9, 10, NIV)

What attracts me to this life is the inherent beauty of Jesus Christ.

Hymn: [Come See Our God](#)

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