Followers

Lake Erie Church

2023

Follow Me

May 7, 2023

(Matthew 16:21-28)

From then on Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be raised from the dead. But Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things. “Heaven forbid, Lord,” he said. “This will never happen to you!” Jesus turned to Peter and said, “Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God’s.” Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in the glory of his Father and will judge all people according to their deeds. And I tell you the truth, some standing here right now will not die before they see the Son of Man coming in his Kingdom.”

Introduction:

We said last week followers of Jesus have **absolute conviction that Jesus is the Christ, God’s only Son** and that redemption from sin only occurs through faith in Jesus. We also said that the highest calling for a follower of Jesus is to **do God’s will in obedience to His Word**.

Today I would like to suggest another…

**Followers of Jesus D\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ G\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ L\_\_\_\_ for One Another**

(John 13:34-35) So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. **Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples**.

“…love for one another…”

*agape*: to cherish; show or prove one’s love; long for; desire; place first in one’s affections.

What does it mean to **LOVE ONE ANOTHER**?

* In giving this command, Jesus did something the world had never seen before—

He created a group identified by one thing: L\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* The church is to be UNIQUE—our identifying factor is LOVE.

(John 3:16)

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Notice…

*“…Just as I have loved you, you should love each other….”*

* Following His example, we show others the same kind of love Jesus showed by:
  + being humble
  + selfless
  + serving others
  + by sharing the Gospel
  + by taking care of the persecuted
  + the orphans, and the widows

Conclusion:

The decision to follow Jesus is a choice for a new way of life, a new way of thinking…the patterns and habits of this world will not work for you…there’s a phrase in the New Testament which fits here—“the mind of the Spirit” and in our decision to follow Jesus, we choose

* To identify with Jesus, His Word and His cross
* To live as outsiders in this world (IN but not OF)

It’s why attending church is so important—you come, engage and encourage each other because of our common faith in Jesus Christ. It’s the reason Paul writes,

(Hebrews 10:24-25)

And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of sparking love and good deeds. Don’t stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near.

God I’m a sinner

I’m sorry for my sins

I believe Jesus died for my sins

I believe Jesus will forgive my sins

I choose Jesus