ARE YOU A FOLLOWER?
(Matthew 19:16-21)

I. The priority of following Jesus.
   A. In Matthew 8:21 we have recorded for us an with Jesus and an unknown disciple.
   B. The one invited said, “Lord, suffer mt first to go and bury my father.”
      1. One would think that this is a most important duty of a son and it is.
      2. However, most commentators feel that this was said because his father was sick and not then dead.
      3. It could be days, weeks or months before he died.
   C. Jesus then says something that some might think callous: “Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead” (Matthew 8:22).
      1. Why would Jesus be so callous?
      2. The reason is that burying one’s father is not wrong, but waiting to follow Jesus is.
      3. It is to be the utmost priority we have in life.
   D. It is said of Matthew, when asked by Jesus to follow Him, that he left all (Luke 5:28).
   E. Following Jesus is to be first and foremost in our thoughts and efforts every day.
   F. The reason for this is that by following Him, even in suffering, we are following the One who can heal us from sin (1 Peter 2:21-24).

II. The price of following Jesus.
   A. Someone once said, “Nothing in life is free.”
      1. While there is no monetary price to be paid for salvation, it still costs.
      2. It is a high price that many are not willing to pay.
   B. When Jesus talked with the rich young ruler He told him the cost (Matthew 19:21).
      1. That young man had a decision to make.
      2. He decided the price was too high (Matthew 19:22).
   D. Our Lord has never hid the price of following Him.
   E. Following Jesus may be at the price of being cut off from family and loved ones (Matthew 10:34-39).
   F. When ever paying a price for something, one has to look at what the item being purchased is worth.
      1. There is nothing on the face of the earth as valuable as your soul (Mark 8:36-37).
      2. When you fail to pay the price of following Jesus you are saying that your soul is not worth the price it costs to be a follower of Jesus.
      3. What you are paying the price for is the salvation of your soul and eternity in heaven with Jesus and all of His followers.
G. Is that not worth the price of following Jesus?

III. The protection for those following Jesus.
   A. Everyone wants protection for their purchases.
   B. Who better to protect your purchase than the Creator and Sustainer of life?
      2. Once the price of following Jesus has been paid, there is no possibility of Jesus turning you out in the cold.
      3. He wants you to be saved and has provided everything necessary for you to remain in Him.
      4. Peter was inspired to write that if we do certain things we will never fall (2 Peter 1:10),
   C. Think of the promise from Jesus that the Hebrews writer recorded (13:6).
      1. That is a protection plan that will not fail.
      2. God is the God that cannot lie (Titus 1:2).
   D. He has given us everything that we need to protect ourselves along with His providential help (2 Peter 1:3).
   E. Therefore, the protection for our price of following Jesus cannot be beat.

IV. The position for those following Jesus.
   A. The only way to serve Jesus is to follow Him.
   B. Matthew 16:24.
   C. There is no way to be ahead of Jesus and be His follower.
      1. Those that want to change His doctrine cannot be His followers.
      2. Those that have their own agendas cannot be His followers.
   D. We must understand He is the Master and we are the servants (John 13:10).

V. The purpose of following Jesus.
   A. Jesus revealed the purpose of following Him to the fishermen He called to be His disciples - “I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19)
   B. The purpose for His coming was to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10).
   C. As those that are His followers, we are to do His will, just as He did the will of the Father.
   D. His purpose is to be our purpose.
   E. Once we have tasted of the good word of God we should desire for others to taste it as well.
      1. There is nothing as sweet as salvation.
      2. There is nothing as delicious as freedom from sin.
   F. When we have tasted it, we should want others to taste it as well.

From an outline by Bobby Liddell