

Scenes of Discipleship: "You Follow Me"

Western Christadelphian
Bible School
Day #1

DISCIPLESHIP



The gospels contain over twenty references where Jesus personally invited people to follow him.

“Follow me”

Beginning

“Follow me”

During

“Follow me”

Ending

Scenes of Following

Scene #1 "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men" (Matt. 4:18-20; Mk. 1:16-18; Lk. 5:1-11)

How does the disciple hear the call to follow?
How does the disciple respond?

Scene #2 "We have left everything and followed you" (Matt. 19:27; Mk. 10:28; Lk. 18:28)

Is there any benefit in this life to being a disciple?

Scene #3 "Why can't I follow you now?" (Jn. 13:36-37)

Why can't the disciple follow in the way that he or she chooses?

Scene #4 "Peter was following him at a distance" (Matt. 26:58; Mk. 14:54; Lk. 22:54; Jn. 18:15)

What does the disciple do when everything is going wrong?

Scene #5 "You follow me" (Jn. 21:19-22)

What does Jesus expect the disciple to do?

twitter

akoloutheo [to follow]

akolouthos [a follower]

prefix *a* ["union, likeness,"] and

keleuthos ["a way"]

"one going in the same way"

Most frequently occurs in the Gospels

Dynamic

Journey

A process

“The Way” (Acts 9:2; 18:25-26; 19:9, 23;
22:4, 14, 22)

“...by the new and living way that he opened
for us through the curtain, that is, through his
Flesh” (Heb. 10:20 ESV)

kaleō

“God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity he restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him. After God made that decision of what his children should be like, he followed it up by calling people by name. After he called them by name, he set them on a solid basis with himself. And then, after getting them established, he stayed with them to the end, gloriously completing what he had begun.”

(Romans 8:29-30 The Message)

Jesus Called Peter by Name

Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus. Looking intently [*emblepo*] at Simon, Jesus said, “Your name is Simon, son of John—but you will be called Cephas” (which means “Peter”). Jn. 1:42 NLT

“The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.” (John 10:3 ESV)





Following the call
was something
Peter thought deeply
about

Transformational
(1 Pet. 1:15; 2:9; 3:9;
5:10; 2 Pet. 1:3)

”For you were called to this. Because Christ also suffered for you, leaving-behind *a pattern for you* in order that you might follow-after His footsteps...For you were going-astray like sheep, but now you returned to the Shepherd” (1 Pet. 2:21-25 DLNT)

We Follow Because We Know His Voice

"When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." (Jn. 10:4-5 ESV)



How can we tell the Shepherd's voice from the Hireling's voice?

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”
(Jn. 10:27 ESV)



Non-Followers



MATT 8:22

**FOLLOW ME AND LET
THE DEAD BURY
THEIR DEAD.**



Why Don't They Follow?



What is the mode of transportation?

We Walk....

- in newness of life (Rom. 6:4)
- according to the spirit (Rom. 8:4; Gal. 5:16)
- by faith (2 Cor. 5:7)
- In light (1 Jn. 1:7)
- in love (Eph. 5:2)
- worthy of our calling in Jesus (Eph. 4:1; 1 Thes. 2:12; Col. 1:10; Col. 2:6)
- In good works (Eph. 2:10)

“What you do speaks so loudly that I cannot hear what you say.”



Doctrine = Behavior

"Christ did not appoint professors, but followers. If Christianity ... is not reduplicated in the life of the person expounding it, then he does not expound Christianity, for Christianity is a message about living and can only be expounded by being realized in men's lives."

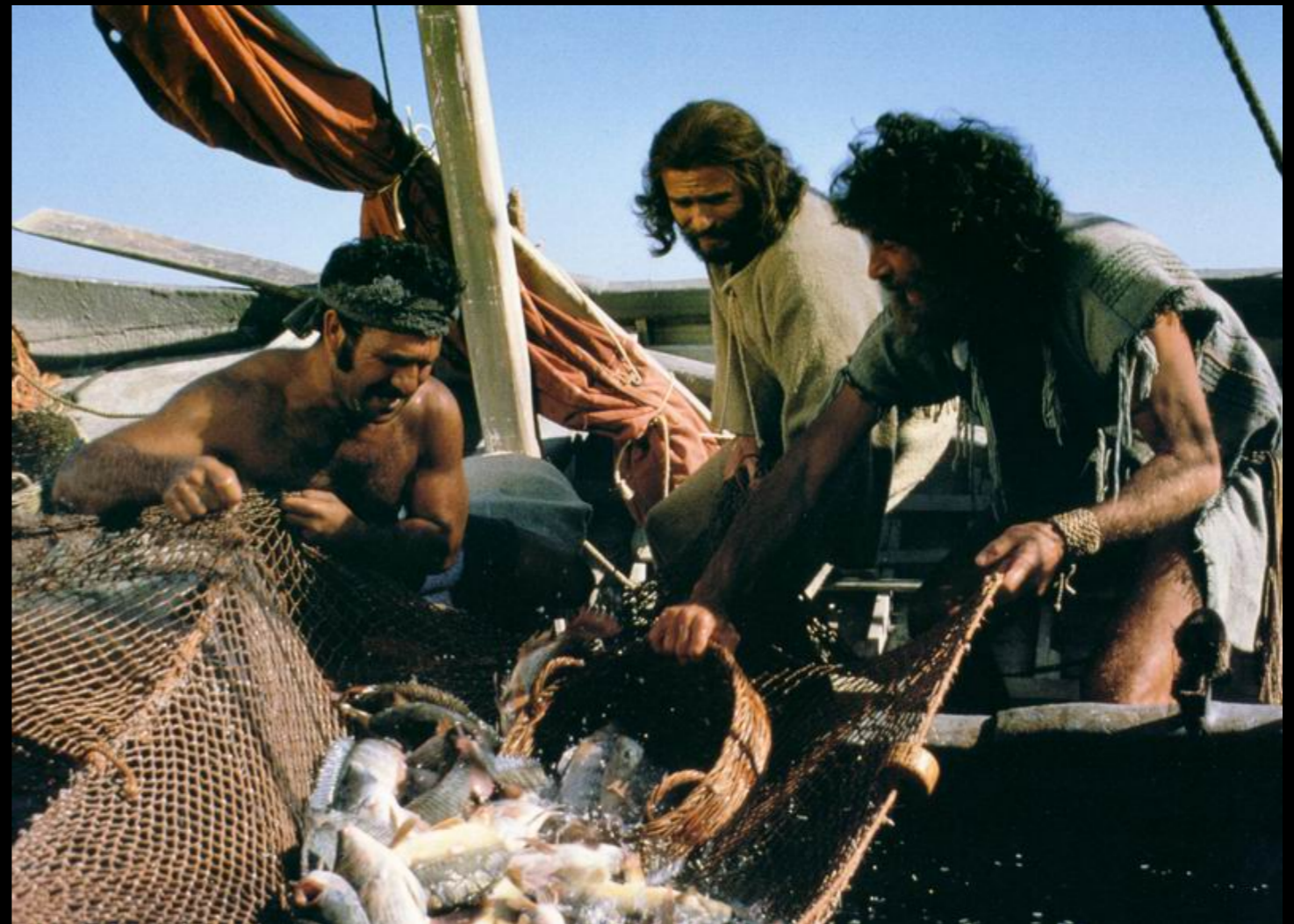
Soren Kierkegaard

"This is how we can be sure that we are in him: the one who claims to abide in God ought to walk just as Jesus walked." (1 Jn. 2:5-6 Mounce)

Peter Follows the Call

Matt. 4:18-20; Mk. 1:16-18; Lk. 5:1-11

- "At your word I will let down the nets..."
- "I am a sinner..."
- "...immediately they left their nets and followed him"





“Jesus looked at him and loved him. ‘One thing you lack,’ he said. ‘Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.’ At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.” (Mark 10:21-22 NIV)

"Peter answered him, 'We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?'"
(Matt. 19:27 ESV)

- Family-based fishing syndicates were financially well off (e.g., Wuellner, *et. al.*) and politically connected (Jn. 18:15-16)
- Magdala or Tarichaeae ("Processed-Fishville")



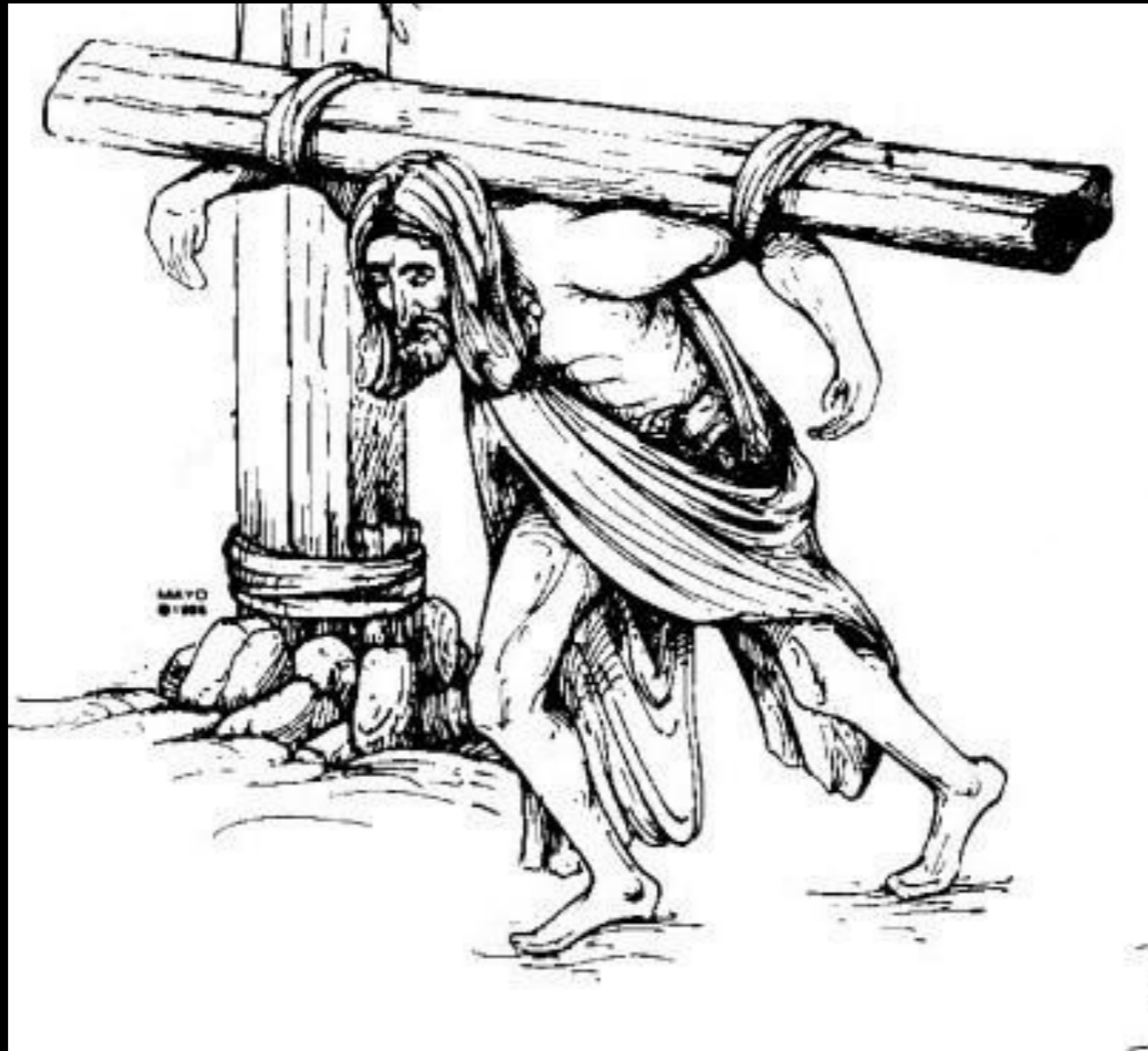
“And Jesus told them, ‘Believe me, nobody has left his home or wife, or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God, without receiving very much more in this present life—and eternal life in the world to come.’” (Lk. 18:29-30 PHILLIPS)

“...the happiness with which the disciple is blessed here and now...Brethren in Christ join a rich, loving, and generous community. It is brothers and sisters and mothers...which they are taught to be to each other. They are not invited to be censors and inspectors and policemen.”
(Bro. Alfred Norris)



Taking up the cross and following Jesus

Matt.
10:38



Lk.
14:27

Matt. 16:24; Mk. 8:34; Lk. 9:23

Matt. 16:24; Mk. 8:34; Lk. 9:23

"The cross is laid on every Christian. The first Christ-suffering which every man must experience is the call to abandon the attachments of this world. It is that dying of the old man which is the result of his encounter with Christ. As we embark upon discipleship we surrender ourselves to Christ in union with his death—we give over our lives to death. Thus it begins; the cross is not the terrible end to an otherwise god-fearing and happy life, but it meets us at the beginning of our communion with Christ. When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die."

Bonhoeffer, *Cost of Discipleship*



"The principle runs through all life from top to bottom, Give up yourself, and you will find your real self. Lose your life and you will save it. Submit to death, death of your ambitions and favourite wishes every day and death of your whole body in the end, submit with every fibre of your being, and you will find eternal life. Keep back nothing. Nothing that you have not given away will be really yours. Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead."

C.S. Lewis

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Gal. 2:20)

(Matt. 26:40 DLNT)
And he comes to the
disciples and finds them
sleeping. And he says to
Peter, “So were you [plural]
not strong-enough to keep
watch with me *for* one hour?”



Despite a Really Bad Night Peter Keeps Following

- He has the worst seat at the Lord's Supper
- The whole fiasco around washing the feet
- He has to ask John (who had a great seat) for help in determining who would betray Jesus
- Individually and in front of the whole group, Jesus tells him that he will betray his Master three times
- The three (Peter, James and John) fall asleep but Jesus only reproves Peter



Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” Peter answered him, “Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.” Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” Peter said to him, “Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!” And all the disciples said the same. (Matthew 26:31-3 ESV)

"Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance...."

"...a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light"

"a little later someone else saw him and said, 'You also are one of them'"

"another insisted, saying, 'Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean.'"

"And the Lord turned [*strepho* s.w. Matt. 16:23] and looked [*emblepo* s.w. Jn. 1:42] at Peter."



John 21:18-23 DLNT

walking where you were
wanting to go

bring you where you are
not wanting to go

signifying by what kind of
death he will glorify God

“Be following Me!”

“Lord, and what of this one?”

“...what is it to you?
You be following Me!”