

# Influence Ministries

## FOLLOW

### LESSON 1

#### TITLE: EVERYBODY IS INVITED TO FOLLOW

Jesus Says... Follow Me

Growing up in church I felt like church was... Jesus says.

Kinda like Simon says.  
Jesus says go to church.  
Jesus says don't do that.  
Jesus says do that.  
Jesus says don't read that.  
Jesus says come here.  
Jesus says don't go there.  
Jesus says... Jesus says...

Get in the game and do what Jesus says.

People play the Jesus says game.

If you take the gospels, the account of the life of Jesus, you'll see is so relational.

He uses relational scenarios to explain Himself.

Father - Child  
Vine - Branch  
Shepard - Sheep

If your approach to Him is anything less than relational, perhaps you've missed something?

God is inviting you to have an extraordinary relationship with Him.

Throughout the gospels, the word Jesus kept coming back to is, the word we're going to build this series on.

The word is "FOLLOW"

Jesus extended an invitation to follow to every single person imageable.

Rich people, poor people, spiritual people, people how were not spiritual.

Matt 9: -NLT

*As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So, Matthew got up and followed him.*

*10 Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners.*

*11 But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with such scum?"*

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Tax collectors were very unwelcome people. the NLT version calls them “scum”

Look... Jesus told Matthew to follow me, and the scriptures says... "So, Matthew got up and followed him"

You identify yourself with Me and I'll identify Myself with you

Jesus didn't say...

If you're willing to \_\_\_\_\_, you can follow Me.

If you're willing to stop, you can follow me.

If you're willing to start, you can follow me.

He simply says, Mathew, follow Me.

Jesus extended this invitation throughout the Gospels.

Why don't we take the next two months and tune out all the imagery of church and religion and simply follow Him?

We're going to skip past what you know and what you don't know and ask ourselves one question.

## **AM I FOLLOWING?**

What if we took all the Jesus Says stuff and set it aside for a few weeks and ask ourselves... am I following?

This one thing I know... we have been called to Follow.

I want to get you to the point in your walk with God that you go beyond “Jesus Says” and you live by following Him.

The Jesus says relationship sounds more like rules, do's and don'ts.

The Follow relationship sounds more like a desire rather than a duty.

Jesus drew the circle big and invited many to step in and follow Him.

So, as we launch this series, the question around your house will be, and I hope is,

## **AM I FOLLOWING?**