

Influence Ministries

FOLLOW

LESSON 4

TITLE: FOLLOWING WILL EVENTUALLY COST YOU

Eventually your following commitment will be challenged.

You'll ask yourself am I a follower or a consumer?

When we look at the fine print, we see there are huge benefits of following Jesus.

You'll be a better Mother, Father, dad, co-worker, you'll forgive quicker etc...

Let's take a look at the scriptures where Jesus starts to draw some lines about follow Him.

Mark 8:34 ... "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

He's saying there will be times that what you want and what I want for you will be different. At that moment, you'll have to decide if you're going to be a consumer or follower. You may have to say NO to you in order to follow me.

Jesus goes on to explain about following Him.

Mark 8:35 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.

Whoever chooses to follow me will lose their life. The life you try to save, He says you're going to lose it.

You're going to lose it anyway. But if you lose it for me by following me. You will save it.

Mark 8:36 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?

He asks a great question. He says, let's play an imaginary game. Let's assume you have everything. You had every opportunity, people looked at you and says, you've got the whole world.

Just use your wildest imagination, but if you had all that, at the end of your life you lose it.

Mark 8:37 Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

Answer: Everything.

Look what you just discovered about yourself. You would voluntarily give it all up to save your soul.

You consider your soul of greater worth than all your things.

Jesus is saying, whatever you have to give up to follow Me, you will eventually have to give it up when you die.

He's saying you have an opportunity to give it up in a way that it impacts the destination of our soul.

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Put in that context, it's not a big sacrifice when you say it like that.

Mark 8:38 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

The moral of the story is this:

Salvation is free; it costs us nothing.

Following Christ will eventually cost us something.

At some point in your journey, there will be a conflict and at that moment, you'll know this is the point of this lesson.

You'll come to the point... if I'm going to be a follower I need to go, I need to stay, I need not to call back, I need not to take that job, I need not to take the position.

There's not going to be a verse, there's not going to be a sermon you're just going to know, here's that moment that I choose to follow Him.

It's going to feel like a right or wrong issue.

In the long run, it's going to be a defining moment.

You'll discover in that moment, how you really are.

I'm saying no to me in order to say yes to Him.

If you're thinking that, you just acknowledged that you value your soul more than your life.

Refusing to follow Jesus, will eventually cost you more.

I'm asking you to simply...

FOLLOW