

Follow Me . . .

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And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Notice the first word Jesus said to the disciples in Matthew 4:19 was "follow." He didn't say, "Let's have a vote, or a discussion," or even ask. "What do you think?" Jesus always keeps what He says to us very simple. Jesus said, "Follow me."

What happened when Jesus told Simon Peter and Andrew to follow Him when they were busy fishing? Well, the two brothers did not discuss it. They did not run home and ask anyone else's opinion. They didn't even ask their fellow fishermen what they thought. Simon Peter and Andrew simply got up from where they were working and followed Jesus.

Jesus didn't tell them what they would be doing. He told them what He would do for them. He said, "I will make you fishers of men." There wasn't anything they would have to do by themselves. Jesus was going to 'make them' into what He desired each of them to be as long as they continued to follow Him.

But **what does it mean** to 'follow' Jesus? Ever play the children's game "Follow the Leader?" In a simple definition, that is what it means to follow. As a child, you didn't question where the leader was going. You didn't disagree with what the leader was doing. You simply mimicked what the leader did. If the leader hopped on one foot and you fell down as you tried to hop on one foot, you didn't quit the game. You just kept on doing what the leader was doing (or at least you tried to do it).

Why is it that when we get a little older we no longer just follow but start to question what the leader is requesting from us? Now I know that there are times when the leader unfortunately gets off and we should question what is being done. But, **God NEVER** gets off! He always knows what He is doing in our lives. But as humans we seem

to forget He is GOD, and we think of Him as human and no longer blindly trust our Father God as we once did.

Jesus was only able to make the disciples 'fishers of men' as He said He would as long as the disciples followed Him without question. When we begin to take our eyes off of our Savior and put them on our surroundings, whether it be circumstances, people, or situations, we begin to look around and quit following Jesus. As long as we follow Him we can be used of God. Have you ever been used of God and weren't fully aware of it? Has someone ever said how you 'helped' them and you wondered when or how you helped them? That's the time when God was working through you. Jesus was making you a true fisher of man and you weren't trying to do it in your own ability.

In our human ability we cannot please God. We cannot become fishers of men. It is only through simply 'following Jesus' that we please God and become one of His fishers of men. Another word comes to mind as I think of the game "Follow the Leader." That word is trust. You cannot play the game if you don't trust the leader. If you thought the leader was going to do something that would hurt you, you didn't play. But because the leader is the first one to do the required action, you learned to trust that leader. You trusted that they would not do anything that would cause harm. Who is our example? Jesus! Jesus is not only our leader; He is our example! He proved to us by His life that it can be done. Oh, how sweet to trust in Jesus. Just to take Him at His word. Just to rest upon His promise, and to know 'thus saith the Lord!'