

Follow . . . the Destination

NorthRidge Church
Dr. M. David Myers
April 16, 2017

Truth for Life

For the week of April 16, 2017
(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

An Invitation to Follow Christ – Matthew 4:19-20

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed him.

Sure, we want to follow Jesus, but where is he leading? What is the payoff to following him?

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As a Follower of Christ ... the Payoff

“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. Be on your guard . . . Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul . . . So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.” – Matthew 10:16-31

- 1. The Payoff is not “Don’t be Afraid . . . Because God will not let _____”
2. The Payoff is “Don’t be Afraid . . . _____ bad things happen”
o Why . . . Because Following Jesus offers us a Faith so strong that it _____.
Cp. Matthew 6:25-32; Rom. 8:28-39; John 16:33
▪ This kind of Faith _____
▪ This kind of Faith _____
Cp. 1 John 4:8

My Response – Am I following?

What is my next step?
Am I willing to take the next step?

- 1. While heaven is not the payoff for following Christ, it is still a benefit. Have you ever thought about heaven and the home that God is preparing for His children? What questions would you like to ask God about that place and what it will be like?
2. Do you tend to be a worrier or do you deal with circumstances as they come? How is your natural tendency (the way you were wired) a strength for you? How is it a weakness? What circumstances, consequences, or possibilities do you fear? How does that fear limit your choices in life?
3. Have you ever experienced God’s presence in the midst of a trial, problem or scary situation? If so, what was it like? Think about a time when you felt close to God. Were your circumstances at that time good or bad? How did those circumstances, good or bad, influence your relationship with God?
4. Have you ever met someone who was choosing to trust God through difficult circumstances? What impressed you about that person? Can you imagine yourself having a faith like that? Why or why not?

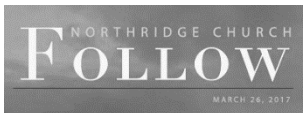
Action Step Challenge ...

The challenge to follow Christ moves us beyond the plotting of our path to see how far we have come, but to evaluate our present status, Am I following Christ? That doesn’t mean radical change all at once. It means taking one step. Whatever your next step is . . . take it. Whatever your point of challenge right now is, that’s where God wants to work in your life.

- 1. What circumstances do you face right now that you need to entrust to God? What worries are you struggling with that you need to entrust to God?
2. What can this group do to support you?

Memory Verse

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. – John 16:33



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What is the payoff to following him?

- **Better Person**
- **Improved Morality**
- **Heaven**
- **Life is Good**

As a Follower of Christ ... the Payoff

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1. The Payoff is **not** “Don’t be Afraid . . . Because God will not let **bad things happen**”
2. The Payoff is “Don’t be Afraid . . . **When** bad things happen”
 - a. Why . . . Because Following Jesus offers us a Faith so strong that it **Frees us from Fear**.
Cp. Matthew 6:25-32; Rom. 8:28-39; John 16:33
 - i. This kind of Faith **Honors God**
 - ii. This kind of Faith **Frees us to Love**
Cp. 1 John 4:8

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