

A FOLLOWER'S RESPONSE TO JESUS

Mark 1:1-45

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Often there are food displays in stores and a sample of the food product is offered to those who pass by. The purpose, of course, is to get the shopper to buy their product. Sometimes people go back several times to get another "sample" and are often told that they have had enough "samples." That same attitude of "trying or sampling" a product with no real intention of buying it applies to concepts of Jesus. Why do people follow Jesus? Why do YOU follow Jesus? Do YOU follow Jesus because of WHO He is or because of WHAT He might be able to do for you? Is it self interest or spiritual interest?

I. A RESPONSE TO JESUS THAT SHOULD BE ADMIRERD

1. *vv 1-13*
2. The best verbal response to Jesus came from demons (Mark 1:24; 3:11; 5:7) and from the centurion (Mark 15:39)
 - They had the right view of Jesus, that He was/is God's Son.
 - The angels who attended Jesus when in the wilderness knew who Jesus was.
3. John the Baptist knew who Jesus was and gave his life for the Gospel (6:27)
 - John confirmed his faith in Jesus when he baptized Jesus.
4. John followed Jesus for who He was, knowing that he would lose his popularity to Jesus.
5. Does John's response to Jesus resemble yours? Do you follow Jesus for who He is?
 - Are you willing to give your life for Jesus?

II. AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO JESUS THAT HAD NO DELAY

1. *vv14-20*
2. Some fishermen, Peter, Andrew, James and John responded immediately.
3. They had no idea what they were getting themselves into when they immediately left their nets and followed Jesus, they did not stop and consider what they were doing and the cost.
 - The cost turned out to be very high and they left Jesus but came back later.
4. John Mark started out following Jesus going with Paul and Barnabas on a mission trip but he turned back when things got tough.
 - Why did Mark turn back? Had he not considered the cost? He did eventually return to Jesus though.
5. Nothing is wrong with following Jesus immediately, but the cost of following Jesus should be considered before commitment.
6. Does the immediate response of these disciples resemble your commitment? Have you left everything to follow Jesus? Have you considered the cost of following Jesus?

III. THERE IS AN EMOTIONAL RESPONSE TO JESUS

1. vv21-28
2. Some know who Jesus is but refuse to follow Him.
 - Demons
 - Roman Centurion
3. Some run to Jesus who don't really know who He is.
 - They are impressed with His authoritative teachings
 - They are impressed with His healing and power over demons.
 - Have YOU ever been impressed with a magician and his/her tricks?
 - Have YOU ever been impressed by some speaker's ability to hold your attention?
4. Emotional response to Jesus is not lasting nor is it a true, real, meaningful life changing response. It all begins with enthusiasm but runs out after a little while.
5. Does the crowd's emotional response to Jesus resemble YOURS? The newness of following Jesus is gone? It seems that a lot of members on church rolls are in this crowd. They responded once, but seem to have lost interest in following Jesus and don't attend or participate very much if any in their church anymore.

IV. THERE IS A SELFISH RESPONSE TO JESUS

1. vv 29-45
2. Some follow Jesus for personal, selfish reasons.
 - Healing
 - Miracles
 - Mere curiosity
 - Find mistakes
3. Jesus often hid Himself from the public, from people because they were following Him for the wrong reasons.
 - They wanted to see a show.
 - They wanted Jesus to do something personally for them.
4. Why do YOU follow Jesus? Do you want something from Him? Is it YOU or is it JESUS that you follow Him?
 - Are you in it to get something from Him or are you in it for JESUS alone?

CONCLUSION:

1. Why do you follow Jesus? For Him or for YOURSELF?
2. Has your response been total commitment? Immediate? Selfish? Emotional?
3. Take a good look at why you are a follower of Jesus, if you are. Is it sincere, is it from your heart? Or is it to just go to heaven?