

AFTER BELIEVING IN JESUS, THEN WHAT?

John 21:18-22

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: No doubt Peter, James and John and others believed in Jesus but Peter seemed to have more problems than the others. When Jesus was being taken prisoner in the Garden, Peter boldly drew his sword and cut off the ear of one of the soldiers. Jesus told him to put up his sword and went willingly with those who had come to take Him away. Hours later Peter was confronted with being a follower of Jesus and he denied that he was and that he didn't even know Jesus. A believer in Jesus, yes, but what happened? Later after Jesus' resurrection, He appeared to Peter and other disciples and taking Peter aside, Jesus asked Peter three times if he really loved Him, with Peter replying each time that he did. Then Jesus gave him something to do - "go feed my sheep..." Jesus then told Peter that he was going to be put to death for his belief in Him (Jesus). Peter asked "what about John?" who was there also and Jesus told Peter that it wasn't his worry, but to "**FOLLOW ME!**" So, after believing in Jesus and becoming a Christian, what is next? What then? It is to FOLLOW JESUS.

I. THE MAIN THING IN EACH BELIEVER'S LIFE IS TO FOLLOW JESUS CHRIST

1. To believe in Jesus is to follow Him. (*Matthew 4:18-22; 16:24-26; 19:20-22*)
 - To not believe in Jesus is to be under the wrath of God, cursed and condemned.
 - To not believe in Jesus and die, one will suffer eternally the wrath of God in hell.
 - Each person decides to believe in Jesus, be saved forever, and follow Him or to follow after others and one's own dreams and goals and be damned forever.
 - To follow Jesus is to seek Him.
 - To follow Jesus is to trust Him.
 - To follow Jesus is to submit to His authority.
 - To follow Jesus is to be saved by Him. (*John 3:16*)
2. To follow Jesus is what faith is all about.
 - The main business in a believer's life is to follow Jesus.
 - When one's sin is pardoned and his/her salvation is secure, that person is to follow Jesus.
 - The believer is to imitate Jesus as best as he/she can.
 - A disciple is one who learns to live the life his/her teacher lives.
 - Discipleship is getting to be what the teacher is.
 - Christianity is following Jesus, not just a lot of teaching/doctrines, or some other person.
3. God has given each believer a position, equipped him/her with gifts which he/she is to serve Him and which nobody else has or can do.
 - No matter what a person's position or occupation is, if he/she is a Christian, then Jesus Christ is first in all things in that believer's life.
 - God puts believers where He wants them to be, equips them with gifts and talents and their life's business, vocation is to "follow the Lord Jesus."

II. TO FOLLOW JESUS IS TO PUT EVERYTHING UNDER HIS DIVINE WILL

1. To follow Jesus is to not be concerned about what others are supposed to be doing for the Lord.
 - Each believer is assigned a specific task and equipped to do that task and is responsible directly to the Lord Jesus and not to some other Christian/believer.
 - Believers are to gladly help others, but are not to try to direct/boss/govern others in their service for the Lord. They are to be left in the hands of God.

- Believers must not allow themselves to be turned aside by other believers from their own calling and responsibilities to the Lord Jesus.
 - No believer is responsible for what God called somebody else to do.
 - What God does with a believer is that believer's business and his/hers only.
 - What a believer does for the Lord is his/her business, nobody else's. (*Romans 14:4*)
2. To follow Jesus is to not be concerned with foolish and unanswerable questions (*2 Timothy 2:22-24*)
 - Where, how did evil begin?
 - Where God came from?
 - Why can't mankind understand God?
 - etc.
 3. To follow Jesus, one's own personal interests, needs, relationships are to not be of primary concern, one must "lose his/her life, if he/she would save it."
 - A believer is to follow Jesus whether his/her family does or not.
 - A believer is to follow Jesus, regardless of what he/she prefers.
 - A believer is to follow Jesus regardless of personal cost.
 - A believer is to follow Jesus WILLINGLY....(*2 Timothy 2:8-10*)

III. TO FOLLOW JESUS IS TO CONFINE ONE'S SELF TO A LIFE LONG THING

1. To follow Jesus the rest of one's life is reasonable.
 - Jesus bought each believer. (*1 Corinthians 6:19-20*)
 - How can a person take that which belongs to Jesus and waste it?
 - The believer's powers are very limited.
 - What the believer lacks, the Lord will supply and should use his/her abilities to carry out preaching, witnessing and trying to bring others to the Lord.
 - The believer's time is so short.
 - Obedience to the Lord Jesus is what each believer is called to do and therefore he/she must redeem the time he/she has and use it wisely in following Jesus.

CONCLUSION:

1. What could the Lord Jesus do with a Church family, as individuals and as a family, if each member lived his/her life to glorify the Lord Jesus and be busy doing what the Lord has equipped and assigned each member to do for Him?
2. Believers are the Lord Jesus' witnesses, so they are to tell the lost about Him.
3. Believers are to financially support the Gospel.
4. Believers are to take care of the Church property.
5. Believers are to minister to one another.
6. Believers are to follow the Lord Jesus in obedience to His command to "follow Him."
7. Believers are to follow the Lord Jesus therefore living the life of faith.
8. Believers who follow the Lord Jesus by faith will one day follow Him to their awaiting home in heaven.

