

Luke 5:27-32 ²⁷ ... Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. **"Follow me,"** Jesus said to him, ²⁸ and Levi got up, left everything and followed Him." (NIV)

WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW JESUS

Luke 9:23-26 ²³ (Jesus said) ... Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and **follow me.** ²⁴ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. ²⁵ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? ²⁶ Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when He comes in His glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels." (NIV)

"Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and, if true, of infinite importance. The one thing it cannot be is moderately important." — C.S. Lewis

In order to be a follower of Jesus, I must be willing to ...

1. SURRENDER my self-centered life.

Luke 9:23 "... Whoever wants to be my disciple must **deny themselves** ..."

James 3:16 "... where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice."

2. SUFFER for the cause of Christ.

Luke 9:23 "Whoever wants to be my disciple must ... **take up their cross daily** ..."

2 Timothy 1:8-10 ⁸ ... do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me His prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. ⁹ He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of His own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." (NIV)

3. SUBMIT to Jesus' way of life.

Luke 9:23 "Whoever wants to be my disciple must ... **follow me.**"

Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ and **I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.** The life I now live in body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." (NIV)

4. SERVE no matter the cost.

Luke 9:24 "For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but **whoever loses their life for me will save it.**"

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 "¹⁴ For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again." (NIV)

BOTTOM LINE

Are you a FAN or a follower?

Luke 9:25-26 "²⁵ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? ²⁶ Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when He comes in His glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels." (NIV)

Matthew 19:29 "... everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters of father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will inherit eternal life." (NIV)

Jesus says, "Follow me! it will be WORTH IT!"

COMMUNION

Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ and **I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.** The life I now live in body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." (NIV)