

**Follow Me - Part 2**  
**"Follow Me... to the Process!"**  
**February 28th, 2021**

**Intro:**

- **We live in a Microwave World!!!**
  - **Show of hands... How many of you have ever gotten impatient because it took like 4 or 5 minutes to warm up a meal in the microwave???**
- **This is Week 2 of our Follow Me series - Last week, we began by talking about what it truly means to Follow Jesus...**
  - **It's a Lifestyle, Who we are & it's about Jesus!!!**
- **This weekend, I walk to talk about Following Jesus to the Process!**

**PRAY**

- **Jesus' Strategy for World Change was Different than ours.**
  - **If you & I were going to set out to Change the World, we would look for the Most Educated, Intelligent, Experienced, High Minded, Strategists this planet has to offer & then pull them all together to start building a team!**
  - **But... Jesus didn't do it that way... His strategy was, well, a little or a lot, different!!!**

**Matthew 4:18-19 " As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people. At once they left their nets and followed him.**

**v. 21-22 "Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him."**

- **He chooses four fishermen... not educated, no experience, young...**

Then he picks up another RagTag guy... a Tax Collector...

**Matthew 9:9 "As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him."**

- Tax Collectors were the lowest of the low in their culture!
  - They were liars & cheaters & generalized scoundrels.
- Jesus' strategy for Global Impact started with a band of ragtag, rough around the edges, B-Team, salt-of-the-earth, fishermen types &
  - Over the next 3 years, Jesus takes them on a Journey that prepared them to Change the World!!!
    - ? HOW???
    - Through the Power of Process!
      - Following Jesus is about the Process!!!
- Now, I don't know about you, but this gives me HOPE!!!
  - B/c if Jesus can use people like that, then there's Hope for me & you!
- Let's take this Peter, we read about above...
  - Jesus took him on such an intense journey that He even changed his name!!!
    - From Simon to Peter! - From "Flat-nosed" to "Rock"
  - Throughout the 3 years of Peter's Process, he failed so many times!
    - He was always putting his foot in his mouth & saying & doing stuff that Jesus didn't like!
    - To the point that he actually walked away from Jesus on the night before Jesus was crucified!
      - When Jesus needed him the most, Peter was no where to be found!
  - And yet, Jesus was faithful, graceful, & merciful to Peter!
    - Jesus was Committed to the Process with Peter b/c He knew what was inside of Peter!

- Peter ended up Preaching on the Day of Pentecost & through his life, the church of Jesus, that we are still a part of 2,000 years later was born!
- Talk about a Miracle!!!
- That's what's possible when we are committed to the Process!

**\* Church Family, never underestimate what God can do in us & through us if we will just stay committed to the Process of Following Him!!!**

### **What must we do to Commit to the Process of Following Jesus?**

#### **1. Be Humble & Teachable.**

**A. Following Jesus is all about Humility.**

- No one can come to Him except through Humility!
- But this is a tough one in our Culture today, b/c Pride is Celebrated & Applauded in our Culture.

**B. I love America, but we've got to be So Careful that we don't let, "American Pride," keep us from "Godly Humility."**

- I'm proud to be an American, but I'm more Humbled to be a Follower of Jesus!
- & my Humility before God is more important than my Pride in America.

**C. My Humility before the Lord gives me Trust that's greater than Politics & Issues of our Day.**

- No matter who's in office, I can still trust the Lord.
- No matter what policies are floating around Washington, I can still Trust in the Lord.
- So I don't have to get all worked up & upset & angry, I have a Savior who's greater than all of their efforts combined!

**D. Church Family, God has called us to a life of Humility before Him.**

- The longer you walk with Jesus, the more you see His faithfulness through the seasons of your life, & the more you don't

have to get all worked up about everything the world wants us to get worked up about!

- The more you just get to Trust & Walk with Him.

- SONG: *"And He walks with me & He talks with me & He tells me I am His own... And the joy we share as we terry there, none other has ever known."*

## **2. Be Patient.**

A. Some of us need to stop thinking that all of our dreams are going to come true in like 120 days or less... or 4 years or less, or 10 years or less.

- Sarah & I tell Pastors: "The 1st 19 years are the hardest!"
- We tell married couples, "Give it 10 years."
- We tell new parents, "The first 20 years are the hardest!"

B. ? Is it possible some of us have Steak Dinner expectations, with Microwave Timeframes???

- RUTH'S CHRIS VS. MICROWAVE STEAK ILL.

- It takes several years to grow an animal that fine!!!
- Everything Great in Life takes time to achieve!
- Keep planting Good Seeds & in a Season or 2 or 5, you'll have a harvest you like!!!

C. Sowing & Reaping is a Gigantic Principle in the Kingdom of God.

- Stop expecting to Plant & Harvest in the same season.
- 3 YEARS AGO - GOD MADE THIS REAL TO ME!
- There were some Bad Seeds sown in our Ministry & it's taken time to Dig them out & replant good seeds!

D. 2 Questions:

1) What kinds of Seeds have you been sowing into your life?

- Even as a Christian, it's going to take time to pull up the weeds & keep planting good seeds of righteousness now.

## 2) Are you Comparing your Planting season to someone else's Harvest season?

### 3. Be Planted.

Psalm 90:12 "The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God.

v. 14-15 "They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, "The Lord is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him."

**A. The Process includes being Planted in the House of God where He has placed you.**

- ? How successful would the Disciples have been, if every time Jesus challenged them with something hard, they jumped ship & went to a different Rabbi?
- ? Would they have had a Fraction of the Impact they have had over the last 2000 years?
- I don't think so!

**B. There's just Something Powerful that happens when we are Planted in the House of God over the Long Haul.**

- It's Called Compounding Interest.

**C. "Planting" our Life is not popular in our Culture today.**

- Our Cancel Culture says, *"If someone says something or does something that you don't like or agree with, then UNFOLLOW them, Leave, Stop, Cancel them."*
- But that's NOT a Kingdom Principle! It's a Worldly Principle!

**D. I'm not talking about Ungodliness, I'm talking about Life in the Family.**

- If you left your family every time you had a spat w/ a brother or sister, or even your mom or dad, that would be awful!!!

- You'd end up an Orphan.
- Sadly, there are a lot of Orphans in the Body of Christ today!

**E. MIP: ? Are you Truly PLANTED in the House of God?**

- It's how you & your family will flourish!!!
- Being Planted means Contributing & serving & being in Relationships with other believers.
- It means being committed to what the Family is doing!

**Challenge:**

- When we decide to Follow Jesus, we are committing to His Process of Developing our lives into all that He wants us to be.

- And the Goal is: That we look more like Him everyday!!!

**? Do our Lives look more like Jesus today than a year ago? 2 years ago?**

- If not, then we've probably not been committed to His Process in some area of our life!

**Prayer:**

1. Humility - Our level of Openness determines our Level of Upwardness.
2. Patience. - Stop being mad at God b/c it's taking so long.
3. Decision to be Planted.