

# American Decency Association

PO Box 202, Fremont MI 49412 231-924-4050 [www.americandecency.org](http://www.americandecency.org)  
Encouraging Christians to guard their heart July 2024

## Follow ME

By Steve Huston



What is the first purpose of the church? What are you primarily called to?

Many would answer that question with the words of The Great Commission: *“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”* (Matt. 28:18-20)

While evangelism is vital, we’ve been given a first command which precedes The Great Commission and is also a necessary foundation to stand on in order to fulfill any other

call. It’s the same command that brought a tax collector out of his seat at the receipt of custom and fishermen out of their boats; it’s the gentle command of invitation which tugs on our hearts by the convicting of the Holy Spirit... “Follow Me!” To follow Jesus is to leave the old life and begin a new one; it’s also a call to continued intimacy.

Nothing is sadder than one who refuses the call to “Follow Me.” Feeling a need for something more than obedience to formal religion’s precepts, the rich young ruler came to Jesus, asking, “What must I do to be saved?” To which Jesus replied, *“If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor; and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and **come and follow me.**”* I can feel the heaviness of Matthew’s report that this young man *“went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.”* Some have said that “great possessions had him.” Is there anything that “possesses” you?

“Follow Me” is also a call to intimacy and growth in this new life with Jesus. It’s much more than formal religion; it’s a call to walk with Christ through trials and joys, through temptation and peace. It’s not a one and done kind of thing; it’s an invitation to intimacy with our Lord and Saviour, a command to day by day *“walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in Him...abounding therein with thanksgiving.”* (Col. 2:6-7) It’s a living relationship which requires communication, time in His presence, and a commitment to not hinder that relationship in any way. If/when we do, we humble ourselves, asking for forgiveness and repent of that hindrance.

It’s this longing for intimacy with Jesus that drives us to prayer; Bible reading, study, and meditation; devotions; and leads us to devotion to Him who suffered, died, rose again, ascended into heaven, and will one day return to take His own with Him to Heaven. Believers have a burning

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desire to answer His call of “Follow Me” with a “Yes,” of utter abandon.

M’Cheyne explains: “*A believer longs after God, to come into His presence, to feel His love, to feel in the crowd that He is nearer than all the creatures. Ah! Dear brethren, have you ever tasted this blessedness? There is greater rest and solace to be found in the presence of God for one hour than in an eternity in the presence of man.*”

The closer we heed the call to “Follow Me,” the more experientially we know and feel the depths of Jesus’ love for us, which in turn, strengthens our desire and tenacity to follow Him “beside the still waters,” through “the valley of the shadow of death,” and even through death’s door into His blessed presence. How glorious that will be!

Make no mistake, to “Follow Me” will take one on a path which requires great effort and resolve to

pursue Him to the end. It’s a strait path, one that is narrow and obstacle ridden; there will be trials to endure, temptations to resist, and persecutions to suffer. There will be times that we feel as though we cannot go on. At these times, let us keep our eyes on Jesus, looking only unto Him (Heb. 12:2). It’s then that we must look to our path’s end instead of focusing on our present struggle. When the struggle becomes intense, we meditate upon our Jesus’ promise: “*He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*” In that moment, we not only identify with our suffering Saviour but we love our Lord and prove it so by our obedience.

John, the beloved disciple, answered Jesus’ call to “Follow Me” and he made a life-long habit of doing so. The intimacy he desired and chased after proved to be a foundation he would stand on both through persecutions and unto his dying day. John followed closely and Christ kept His own.

John was in that inner circle of men who saw great miracles and revelations.

He followed Jesus, regardless of potential threat to himself, into the house of the high priest and then on to Mount Calvary where Mary, Jesus’ mother, was entrusted to his care. After the resurrection, John raced to the tomb to see if the resurrection was real. Was it from a desire to continue to “Follow Me” and to walk intimately with the risen Lord?

Extra-biblical accounts tell of the persecution he went through, fulfilling Jesus’ words: “*Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized.*” (Mark 10:39) He was banished to Patmos where he had no companions, except Jesus, whom he followed, worshiped, and loved. For John, Jesus was truly enough! It was here that he was given a promise to share with the church: “*Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*” (Rev. 2:10)

Are you following closely? Will you be ready to face persecution?



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