



CHRIST'S COMMISSION FELLOWSHIP

Los Angeles

Dgroup Discussion Guide
August 30, 2014

CCF 30th Anniversary: FOLLOW JESUS

Word:

Mark 1:17 ***“Jesus said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.’”***

When you follow Jesus, what is important to Him becomes important also to you. Jesus called His disciples to follow Him to make them fishers of men. You will know if you are following Jesus when your priority is people and making disciples of them, because that is the priority of Jesus.

Lost and Found

The real problem of society has to do more with the heart of people rather than the system that runs it. Until the heart of people change, the system will hardly change.

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” – Luke 19:10

When Jesus came on earth, he did not change the political system of the Roman Empire nor improve the socio-economic condition of its people. His primary purpose was to find and save the lost. You are either lost or found. If you are a follower of Jesus, you have been found, no longer lost. One who is lost is not in the presence of the Lord (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9). It is a tragedy to be lost. The greater tragedy is when you are lost, you do not admit that you are and you do not do anything about it.

Obstacles to Following Jesus (Luke 18)

Pride & Self-righteousness (Luke 18:9-12). The Pharisees during the time of Jesus were self-righteous. They were critical of other people and loved no one but themselves. There are modern-day Pharisees that can be found inside churches today. They think they are good compared to other people. But they do not realize that they hardly come close when measured against the standards of God (Romans 3:10-11). Unlike them, the tax collector in the parable of Jesus humbly confessed that he was lost, and for that he was justified before God (Luke 18:14). Pride is the biggest obstacle in following Jesus. Proud people are critical of others and never admit they are proud. When you admit that you are lost, just like the tax collector, then you will be found in Jesus and your name will be found written in the book of life come Judgment Day (Revelation 20:12, 15).

Idolatry (Luke 18:18-21) – A rich man asked Jesus what it would take to inherit eternal life. He thought that good works would do. But Jesus exposed the hidden idolatry in his heart. The rich man could not give up his possessions. Anything that takes the place of God in your life is an idol. It could be your career, wealth or relationships. Until you identify the idols in your life, it will be hard for you to follow Jesus. You must surrender them to Him.

Following Jesus (Luke 19)

Zaccheus, a rich man himself, had money, power and influence. He heard about Jesus and wanted to come to see Him. It is possible that there was emptiness in Zaccheus' heart. For one, nobody would dare be associated with him because of his terrible reputation as the chief tax collector of Jericho - the richest tax center in that time. To his surprise, Jesus personally called him by his name and said that He would like to visit his house. Zaccheus received Jesus gladly. As a result, he repented of his sins, and vowed to correct the fraud that he has done in his office.

If you want to follow Jesus, learn from Zaccheus:

1. Admit you are lost and empty and you need Jesus (Luke 19:2-4)
2. Receive Jesus gladly (Luke 19:6)
3. Make Jesus your Lord (Luke 19:8a)
4. Repent and live out the evidence (Luke 19:8)

If you are a follower of Jesus:

1. Be purposeful – Jesus came to save the lost; do not be a Pharisee. Love the unlovable. Be compassionate because people need Jesus
2. Be personal – call them and know them by their names; Jesus called Zaccheus by his name

Are you a follower of Jesus? What prevents you? As Jim Elliot said, *“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.”*

Jesus is purposeful, He came to seek and save the lost. He came for us. Jesus has been looking for you. Whatever you give up in order to fully follow Him, will be for your greatest favor. Come and follow Jesus.

Works: Journaling task

- 1. Follow Me.** According to Mark 1:17, what is the evidence that you are following Jesus?
- 2. Love the Unlovable.** In what ways have you loved an unlovable? On the other hand, when did you experience being loved despite being unlovable? Share with the group your story.
- 3. The Cost of Following Jesus.** What is preventing you from following Jesus consistently? What have you realized today that will make you commit or re-commit to follow Jesus?

CCF Manila August 31, 2014 Vol 14 No 35