

# Jesus Is The Way

## Lesson 2: Following Jesus



Discovering God's Word

Bible Study Series

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Learn what is involved in true discipleship and how to follow Jesus

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### Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

**Study Number:** DGW196

Written by Eric Krieg

**About the author:** My name is Eric Krieg. I am a disciple of Jesus, a Bible student, a truth seeker, and an evangelist. My interest is in using the Bible as my only guide in my faith. My desire is to help others understand the message of the Bible and pursue true, New Testament Christianity.

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**My plea:** It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

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# Jesus Is The Way

## Lesson 2:

# Following Jesus

In our first lesson, we explored who the real Jesus is and how you can find Him. But, just finding the real Jesus is not enough. For, He does not remain stationary. Instead, the real Jesus prompts movement in a very certain direction.

So, as you reflect on your life and consider the two paths in front of you (as we discussed at the beginning of lesson 1), just finding the right path is not enough to receive its blessings. Instead, you must actually walk along that path throughout your life. You see, there is a big difference between looking at the path that leads to true meaning, fulfillment, joy, satisfaction, and eternal life in Heaven and walking on the path. Many people stand and look, few walk.

Jesus Christ is the way to everything that is truly meaningful and pleasurable. He is trying to lead you and give your life meaning. In John 14:6, He says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

When you have discovered the real Jesus Christ and recognize that He is the way, you must choose to follow Him. But, Jesus wants you to understand what it means to follow Him before you actually do. Although it is the only path in life that leads to true meaning, fulfillment, joy, satisfaction, and eternal life in Heaven, you must consider the cost involved in following Jesus. Listen to Luke 14:28-32.

“For which of you, wanting to build a tower, doesn’t first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, after he has laid the foundation and cannot finish it, all the

onlookers will begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This man started to build and wasn’t able to finish.’ Or what king, going to war against another king, will not first sit down and decide if he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If not, while the other is still far off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace.”

Just as a man who wants to build a tower first considers the cost of the tower to make sure he has enough money to finish the job and a king considers the cost of war to make sure he has enough to win, you must consider whether you will follow Jesus in the way He desires. Jesus helps you recognize that following Him requires great commitment and involves enduring some physical hardships. But, He also assures you that following Him is worth it all!

In this second lesson, we will spend our time learning what it means to really follow Jesus. We will consider what it is involved in being one of His “disciples.” We will consider the commitment involved in following Him. We will consider how to get started following Him. And, we will consider how to follow Him throughout life. So, no matter where you are at right now, you can follow Jesus Christ!

## Really Knowing Jesus Involves Following Him

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Some people have found the real Jesus in their study of God’s word and done nothing with this knowledge. Some believe that just mentally accepting who He is will save them. Some are afraid to do anything with their knowledge. Some have good intentions but never get around to following Him. Some are not willing to pay the price of discipleship. However, you must recognize that really knowing Jesus involves following Him!

### ***He wants you to be His disciple***

As you get to know the real Jesus by reading the Scriptures, it should become apparent that He does not just want people who mentally accept the

truths about who He says He is. Instead, He really wants *disciples*. For example, after Peter came to know Jesus (being introduced to Jesus by Andrew in John 1), Jesus told Peter, “Follow me” (Matthew 4:19).

Jesus did not just want Peter to acknowledge who He was. Instead, He wanted to use Peter in His service. He wanted to mold Peter in His image. He wanted to make Peter a disciple.

Listen to what Jesus taught in Matthew 7:21-23. “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we prophesy in your name, drive out demons in your name, and do many miracles in your name?’ Then I will announce to them, ‘I never knew you. Depart from me, you lawbreakers!’”

Now, there are many people today who will tell you that all you have to do in order to please Jesus and be saved is to believe that He is the Son of God who died for your sins. Yet, this is not what Jesus taught. So, are you going to believe Jesus or the person who tells you such things?

Jesus said that being saved requires more than just professing Him as Lord. Not everyone who professes such will enter the kingdom of Heaven (though it is certainly necessary). There will even be many people on the Judgment Day who will claim Christ as Lord in their lives and say that they have done many things in His name. Yet, Christ will still not be pleased with them. Because they only did *many* things in His name, they did not do *everything* in His name. Therefore, they broke God’s laws by not following Him in every area of their lives. So, they will be told to depart from Jesus into the fires of Hell!

In a similar passage (Luke 6:46), Jesus asked, “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and don’t do the things I say?” Clearly, Jesus is not interested in people merely acknowledging who He is and professing Him as Lord. Instead, He wants real disciples! Listen to 1 John 2:3-6.

“This is how we know that we know him: if we keep his commands. The one who says, ‘I have

come to know him,’ and yet doesn’t keep his commands, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps his word, truly in him the love of God is made complete. This is how we know we are in him: The one who says he remains in him should walk just as he walked.”

These people who actually believe who Jesus is, do what Jesus says, and live how Jesus lived are the ones called “disciples.” Therefore, rather than just knowing about Jesus, you must be interested in and devoted to discipleship. After all, disciples are the ones who can truly be called “Christians” (Acts 11:26).

### ***Two things involved in discipleship***

You can see from the passages we have been discussing that true discipleship involves a true commitment. It is not just a state of mind. Nor is it a one-time decision. So, now that you have found the real Jesus of the Scriptures, you need to be His disciple. This involves two things.

First, discipleship involves learning from the Master. When you recognize who Jesus is, you should want to learn everything you can from Him. And, while you cannot literally sit at His feet like people could while He walked this earth, you can still learn from Him.

As we discussed in lesson 1, you learn from Jesus through the Bible. Specifically, you learn about Jesus’ life, death, burial, and resurrection through the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. But, these are not the only books that describe His teaching. As we saw in lesson 1, Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to teach the apostles more of His will after He ascended into Heaven (see John 16:12-14). So, the apostle Paul could say that his writings were the “Lord’s command” (1 Corinthians 14:37). All the books of the New Testament were written by apostles and prophets and contain the teachings of Jesus Christ!

Therefore, you must spend time learning from Jesus by studying the New Testament Scriptures (as well as learning from the Old Testament). Learn about who Jesus is. Learn about how Jesus lived on this earth. Learn about what Jesus taught as right and wrong. Have such adoration for

the Master that you want to learn everything you possibly can from Him!

Second, discipleship involves following the Master by imitating Him. As we have seen, we cannot stop by merely knowing about what He has taught. Such is not true discipleship. Instead, discipleship requires action.

Consider some of Jesus' teachings through the inspired writer James. James 1:22 says, "But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." James 2:24 says, "You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone." Clearly, these are just two additional passages to show the essential nature of action – and that just mentally accepting who Jesus is and what He has taught is not enough to be His disciple.

The apostle Paul wrote, "Imitate me, as I also imitate Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1). Imitation seeks to replicate (make an exact copy of) the person or thing being imitated. If you really know who Jesus is, you will want to become like Him. You will want to live how He lived. You will want to teach people how He taught them. You will want to be compassionate like He showed compassion. You will want to love like He loved. You will want to overcome temptation like He overcame temptation. You will want to serve like He served.

### ***What Jesus leads to***

As you have hopefully begun recognizing that Jesus Christ requires discipleship – and that discipleship requires commitment, you need to consider why you should commit yourself to following Him in this way. It comes back to when Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). Throughout this series, we will spend time considering what Jesus leads us to. For now, consider a brief overview.

Jesus is the way to truth. In a world that is full of confusion and false information, Jesus will perfectly lead you to what is true. And, this truth will have eternal implications for your soul.

Jesus is the way to victory over sin and death. Although you have sinned against God, Jesus Christ offers you an opportunity to be forgiven. And, by the

resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, He provides victory over death to those who are forgiven of their sins.

Jesus is the way to God. Although sin separates people from God and all the spiritual blessings that result from that relationship, Jesus Christ offers you an opportunity to be reconciled to God. And, by being reconciled to God, you can glorify Him through your life and receive all the spiritual blessings available through Christ.

Jesus is the way to Heaven. Through Jesus Christ, you can be saved from the eternal punishment you deserve to experience because of your sin – which is eternity in Hell. And, through Jesus Christ, you can experience the eternal joys of Heaven.

Jesus is the way to a better life. When you follow Jesus Christ, your life will improve because you will be making good decisions rather than sinful ones. And, every area of your life and relationships will be positively impacted by following His instructions for your life.

Jesus is the way to a joyful life. When you follow Jesus Christ, you will be more joyful than you have ever been before. And, since Jesus is the source of your joy, your joy will never fade away – even though you will experience difficult times in your life.

Jesus is the way out of religious confusion. When you truly follow Jesus, you will only follow Jesus. And, because you only follow Jesus, you will overcome all the religious confusion and division that exists in this world.

Jesus is the way (and the only way) to all of these things! Now, Satan is going to try to distract you and get you off course. He will try to stop you from following Him any way He possibly can. But, you must always choose to follow Him!

## **What Jesus Requires Of His Disciples**

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I hope you have been impressed by the fact that following Jesus involves a commitment to being

His disciple. Now, we need to consider what this commitment really looks like. Fortunately, Jesus tells us exactly what it means to be His disciple so that we can fully consider the cost before agreeing to be disciples.

### ***Complete commitment***

There is an interesting series of events in Luke 9:57-62 that teach some powerful lessons about true discipleship you must consider. Verse 57 gives the first situation. “As they were traveling on the road someone said to him, ‘I will follow you wherever you go.’”

Here was a man (identified as a scribe in Matthew 8:19) who expressed some desire to follow Jesus. His commitment was even to following Jesus wherever Jesus would go. He saw some kind of benefit in doing so. Although neither Luke 9 or Matthew 8 identifies what his motivation was, perhaps he thought there would be some physical benefits for following the one who could perform such miracles as Jesus was performing. This conclusion may be warranted by Jesus’ response in verse 58.

Jesus responded to this first man in verse 58, saying, “Foxes have dens, and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.” Whether the man had a worldly focus in following Jesus or not, Jesus wanted Him to know what he was signing up for. Jesus warned the man that following Him was not a glamorous earthly lifestyle.

Jesus was without a home on the earth He created. He had no place to lay His head. In these ways, Jesus had less than the foxes and birds. Now, Jesus was not trying to scare this man out of following Him. Instead, He just wanted the man to recognize what it really means to follow Him and make sure he knew what he was getting into. The benefits of following Jesus are *not* focused on this earthly life – but in the life that it yet to come. Those who follow Jesus are like pilgrims journeying through a foreign land as they try to make it home.

I don’t know what happened to this first man. The Scriptures don’t tell us whether he actually followed Jesus or not. Instead, verse 59 tells us about

another man. “Then he said to another, ‘Follow me.’ ‘Lord,’ he said, ‘first let me go bury my father.’”

Here is an individual being called into true discipleship. The call is simple. “Follow me.” Evidently, this man wanted to follow Jesus. Yet, before he followed Jesus, he wanted to do something else. He wanted to bury his father. The indication seems to be that he would follow Jesus whenever he was done.

While this may not initially appear to be an unreasonable request, Jesus was able to see the problem. It was a problem of commitment. Verse 60 says, “But he told him, ‘Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and spread the news of the kingdom of God.’”

Now, I do not believe Jesus was giving a law that forbids people attending funerals in this passage. Instead, He was teaching what committing to following Him really looks like. Those who were spiritually dead in their sins could take care of burying a dead body. Those who follow Jesus should be focused on doing what He requires (such as spreading the news of the kingdom of God). So, no physical thing should be put before following Jesus. Remember, this man wanted to “first” go and bury his father before he followed Jesus. This is the wrong order.

Another man then agrees to follow Jesus in verse 61. But, he also missed the commitment involved in following Jesus. “Another said, ‘I will follow you, Lord, but first let me go and say good-bye to those at my house.’”

Like the second man, this third man had his priorities wrong. The problem wasn’t what he wanted to do (as following Jesus does not require cutting all ties with our families). The problem was the order he wanted to do things in. Although this may seem like a small issue, Jesus also knew that such mixed up priorities would never result in true service. Instead, the service of this individual would always be divided between Christ and whatever else he chose to put first.

So, verse 62 records Jesus’ answer. “But Jesus said to him, ‘No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.’”

Don't get lost in your own emotions by thinking about the man who wanted to bury his father or tell his family goodbye before they followed Jesus. Jesus saw the real problem for what it was.

He knew that these people kept looking back. They were not fully committed to following Him. They wanted to do other things *first* (before following Jesus). They were like someone trying to plow a field while looking back. Such a thing is foolish and simply will not work. Following Jesus, like plowing a field, takes commitment to the work and focus. It cannot be done in a half-hearted kind of way. Therefore, anyone who tries to follow Jesus in this half-hearted way is unfit for the kingdom of God.

Instead of following Jesus in that kind of way, consider how Peter, Andrew, James, and John responded to Jesus' call to follow Him. Luke 5:11 says, "Then they brought the boats to land, left everything, and followed Him." Whenever they were absolutely convinced Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God, they did not hesitate to follow Him. They left their possessions, their livelihood, and everything behind. Instead of being what they were, they became Jesus' followers!

### ***Put Him first***

Let's go back to Luke chapter 14. Earlier, we read verses 28-32 about counting the cost of discipleship. Now, we want to consider what Jesus taught before and after that passage – when He actually shows us the cost involved in following Him.

Verses 25-26 say, "Now great crowds were traveling with him. So he turned and said to them: 'If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters – yes, and even his own life – he cannot be my disciple.'" Here was a great number of people following Jesus. He could have gained a much greater number of followers if He would have given them something easy to do. But, Jesus was not focused on gaining a great following in terms of numbers. Instead, He was focused on getting true followers who would put Him first.

So, He told them that anyone who comes to Him without hating his/her family cannot be His

disciple. That sounds harsh. After all, the Bible wants people to love everyone and take care of their family members, right? Of course! But, that is not Jesus' point in this passage.

Instead, Jesus is presenting a choice of priority. People will often choose to put family members before Jesus. So, Jesus' point is simply that you must love Him more than family! And, He didn't stop there. Instead, you must even love Jesus more than your own earthly life. If you will not love Him more than yourself and everyone else, you cannot be His disciple.

Verse 27 continues. "Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." Following Jesus will not always be easy. Just as Jesus carried His cross that He was put to death on because people hated Him, His disciples will be hated by this world (see John 15:18-21). So, His followers will be mistreated, suffer injuries, be burdened, and possibly be killed.

Yet, you must follow Jesus first. Even when things get this kind of difficult, you must choose to follow Jesus instead of doing whatever is easiest. You must bear through the struggles of life and serve Him. If you will not love Jesus enough to endure these things for Him (who endured even more to save you), you cannot be His disciple.

Then, verse 33 says, "In the same way, therefore, every one of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple." Earthly things often prevent people from following Jesus. They get distracted in their service by their jobs. By their property. By their retirements. By their cars. By their hobbies. By many things. So, while Jesus is not teaching that His followers cannot have any of these things, they must renounce (give up) all of these things by considering them as belonging to Jesus rather than themselves.

You must be focused on following Christ. You don't seek those earthly things. Instead, any earthly thing you accumulate is seen as a blessing to be used in serving Christ. They are not yours, but Christ's. They are not for your pleasure, but His glory. And, since they are His, whenever He needs anything you have, you gladly and willingly give them to serve Him! His glory comes first in your life.



If you will not love Jesus more than every earthly thing, you cannot be His disciple.

All of this teaching can be summarized by Matthew 6:33. Jesus taught, “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.” You must focus on serving Jesus Christ first in your life. Everything about your life must be viewed from the perspective of a whole-hearted disciple of Christ.

### ***Crucify self***

Your life as a disciple of Christ is not about yourself. It is about Jesus Christ. We have already seen this demonstrated in the complete commitment He requires you to make to putting Him first. Now, let’s go one step further and think about how much of yourself can remain.

In Luke 9:23-26, Jesus taught, “If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of me will save it. For what does it benefit someone if he gains the whole world, and yet loses or forfeits himself? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and that of the Father and the holy angels.”

Notice that these words are all prefaced with a condition: “If anyone wants to follow me...” If that is your intention, here is how Jesus describes what your discipleship must look like. For, you must follow Him in His way, not your own way.

So, you must deny yourself, take up your cross daily, and follow Jesus. This is complete commitment to Christ. Deny yourself of what may please your physical body in order to do what Jesus wants you to do and avoid what Jesus wants you to avoid. Endure the hardships involved in living on this earth and the persecutions that result from following Jesus every day of your life. And, follow Jesus wherever He leads.

Then, you must lose your life for Christ. You cannot live your life for yourself. Don’t save your earthly life for yourself. Give it entirely to Jesus Christ. Give every day to Jesus. Give your time to Jesus. Give your money to Jesus. Give your health to

Jesus. Give your possessions to Jesus. Give your energy to Jesus. Let Him use your entire life and everything you have in whatever way pleases Him as you follow the instructions He has given you.

If you will do this, you will gain eternal life in Heaven. While following Jesus costs everything you have and everything you are, it is worth the price! In fact, you are getting a bargain! For, if you will follow Jesus in this way, He will give you eternal life in Heaven. However, if you save your life for yourself, you will lose your spiritual life by being sentenced to Hell. And, there is nothing and no one in this world that is worth making such a sacrifice for (see Matthew 16:26)!

Like the apostle Paul, you must consider yourself to be crucified with Christ. He said, “I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20). You should consider your body crucified with Christ, giving yourself to live entirely for the one who gave Himself for you to save you from your sin! Don’t hold anything back!

## **How To Begin Following Jesus**

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So far, we have been considering what following Jesus looks like in very general ways. As we have done so, I hope you are committed to truly following Him in your life, knowing what He leads you to. But, perhaps you have never begun to follow Christ. Therefore, let’s consider how you can begin following Christ and become one of His disciples.

### ***Hear His word***

You cannot be Jesus’ disciple without learning about who He is and what He wants from you. So, the Father instructs people to “Listen to him” (Matthew 17:5)! Romans 10:17 says, “So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ.”

You must learn from Jesus by studying the New Testament Scriptures. Learn about who Jesus is



and what He has done for you. Learn about His teachings and what He requires of you. Although you do not have to know the entire New Testament before you can become a disciple, you do need to learn some basic things about sin, what God has done for you to be saved, and what God requires you to do to be saved. For, when you hear these things, you will be able to obey them.

### ***Believe He is the Son of God***

Hearing about Jesus is not all that is required. Instead, He requires that you believe that He is who He has said He is – Jesus the Christ, the Son of God and Savior of the world. In John 8:24, Jesus said, “Therefore I told you that you will die in your sins. For if you do not believe that I am he, you will die in your sins.”

Although it is essential to be mentally convinced that Jesus is the Son of God, this is not all true faith requires. For, truth faith acts on this mental conviction. Again, James 2:24 plainly states, “You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.” Obedient works are required in order for your faith to be complete and for you to be forgiven of your sins.

### ***Repent of your sin***

One of the things your faith must cause you to do is to repent of your past sins. In Luke 13:3, Jesus said, “No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as well.” Also, Acts 17:30 says, “Therefore, having overlooked the times of ignorance, God now commands all people everywhere to repent.”

To repent is to hate the past sins you have committed and determine that you will live for Jesus in the future. In repentance, you are determining to change. You are putting your past sinful ways to death in your life and determining to live a new life that is devoted to Jesus Christ.

### ***Confess Him***

Jesus does not want people who follow Him to do so secretly. Instead, He wants you to publicly acknowledge Him. In Matthew 10:32-33, He said, “Therefore, everyone who will acknowledge me

before others, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever denies me before others, I will also deny him before my Father in heaven.” And, Romans 10:9-10 says, “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation.”

In making this initial confession, you acknowledge Jesus Christ as the Lord (Master) of your life, recognizing your dependence on Him for salvation. Like the Ethiopian man in Acts 8, you confess that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (verse 37). But, although a confession is necessary in order to become one of Jesus’ disciples, this must not be the only time you ever confess Christ. Instead, you must confess Him throughout your life (as indicated by Matthew 10).

### ***Be baptized***

The final step Jesus requires you to take in becoming one of His disciples is baptism. Jesus said, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:16). When people asked what they needed to do in Acts 2:37, Peter responded in verse 38 by saying, “Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

The Bible pictures baptism as being the point at which you are forgiven of your sins. Romans 6:3-4 pictures that the old person of sin you put to death is buried with Christ in baptism (notice that baptism is a burial/complete immersion in water) – and then you are raised out of that watery grave of baptism to live a new life devoted to Jesus Christ. But, you simply cannot begin that new life for Christ until you are buried with Christ in the waters of baptism for the forgiveness of your sins!

# How To Continue Following Jesus

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Although you become a disciple of Jesus Christ whenever you do these things, your discipleship does not end there. Instead, this is only the beginning. What follows should be a life that is fully committed to following Jesus (as we have been discussing throughout this lesson). Therefore, let's consider how you can continue following Jesus.

## ***It is possible to be cut off from Christ***

You are not “once saved, always saved,” as some people suggest. Instead, there are many Bible verses that teach those who do not continue following Jesus in the way He demands will be cut off from Him. For instance, Jesus taught that His disciples who would not produce fruit in His service and do not remain in Him will be removed and thrown into the fire (John 15:2, 6). When the apostle Paul addressed some disciples who had turned away from Christ, he said, “You who are trying to be justified by the law are alienated from Christ; you have fallen from grace” (Galatians 5:4).

Anytime you violate the law Jesus has given in the New Testament, you fail to put Him first and sin against God. When you do this, you must return to Christ so that you can be forgiven of your sins. One such person who had sinned against God after becoming a disciple was told, “Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, your heart's intent may be forgiven” (Acts 8:22). And, 1 John 1:9 instructs, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” So, returning to Jesus involves repenting of your sin, confessing your sin to God, and asking Him to forgive you.

## ***Remain faithful***

In order to please Jesus as His disciple, you must remain faithful to Him, putting all the principles we have studied about discipleship into practice in your life. For example, Jesus instructed some disciples in Revelation 2:10, “...Be faithful to the

point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.” Although they were going to experience some hardships in following Christ, they needed to remain faithfully obedient to Christ by putting Him first in their lives.

So, in order to remain a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ, you must always give Him control of your life. Let His will be done in your life rather than your own. Keep His commandments. Deny yourself. Bear your cross. Put Him first. Don't deny Him. Learn from Him. Grow in His service. And, follow Him wherever He leads you through the pages of the New Testament.

## Conclusion

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If you will follow Jesus, He will lead you to wonderful blessings (which we'll be exploring in the coming lessons). Hopefully, now you understand what it really means to follow Jesus and how you must follow Him. If you have never become a disciple of Jesus Christ by doing the things He has required, you should obey the commands Jesus has given today. If you have become a disciple and went back into sin, you should come back to Jesus by obeying Him while you have opportunity to do so. And, if you are following Jesus in the way He has taught, you should continue your discipleship. Whatever point you are at in your life, follow Jesus!

## Study Questions

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Why did Jesus want people to count the cost of following Him?

### **1. Really Knowing Jesus Involves Following Him**

How does just believing in Jesus fail to please Him?

Explain how the following two things are involved in discipleship.

1. Learning from the Master –

2. Following the Master by imitating Him –

What does Jesus lead you to?

## **2. What Jesus Requires Of His Disciples**

How do Luke 9:57-62 and Luke 5:11 teach you what it means to make a complete commitment to Jesus Christ?

How do Luke 14:25-27, 33 and Matthew 6:33 teach you what it means to put Jesus first?

How do Luke 9:23-26 and Galatians 2:20 teach you what it means to crucify yourself?

## **3. How To Begin Following Jesus**

Is it necessary to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ?

What does it mean to hear the gospel?

Is it necessary to believe Jesus is the Son of God?

What does it mean to believe in Jesus?

Is it necessary to repent of your sins? What does it mean to repent?

Is it necessary to confess Christ? What does it mean to confess Christ?

Is it necessary to be baptized? What does it mean to be baptized?

## **4. How To Continue Following Jesus**

Is it possible to be cut off from Jesus Christ after being saved by Him? What must you do to be forgiven in this situation?

Is it necessary to remain faithful? What does it mean to remain faithful?