

# Following Jesus At A Distance



Discovering God's Word  
Bible Study Series

# Following Jesus At A Distance

Learn what it means to give your life to Christ and four reasons why you should do so

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## Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

**Study Number:** DGW193

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**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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# Following Jesus At A Distance

Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane praying to His Heavenly Father, knowing that His time to die was near. He told His disciples to pray so that they would not enter into temptation. He had already told Peter that he would deny Him three times before the rooster crowed (although Peter adamantly denied this, saying that he would even die for Jesus).

Then, Judas approached Jesus with a mob of Jesus' enemies. Judas performed the sign of a kiss, identifying Jesus to those wishing to do Him harm. As they attempted to arrest Jesus, Peter pulled out his sword and was ready to fight – even cutting off Malchus' right ear (the high priest's servant). Yet, Jesus told Peter to put his sword away, saying that He could call on His Father for more than 12 legions of angels to deliver Him (if He so chose). However, the Scriptures that foretold Jesus' sacrifice could not be fulfilled in this way. So, He healed the man's ear and went peacefully.

At this point, the Scriptures say that “all the disciples deserted him and ran away” (Matthew 26:56). However, as Jesus was led to the high priest, Matthew 26:58 says that “Peter was following him at a distance right to the high priest's courtyard. He went in and was sitting with the servants to see the

outcome.” So, there was Peter – sitting among the crowd of people as the Jewish leaders sought false witnesses to testify against Jesus. He followed Jesus close enough to see what was going to happen with Him, but at enough of a distance that he did not have to be associated with Jesus and be put in personal danger.

Still, there was a servant girl who questioned whether Peter was one of Jesus' disciples. But, Peter denied it in front of everyone. Later, another woman accused Peter of being with Jesus. Again, he denied any association with Jesus. Then, another (who was related to Malchus) accused Peter of the same thing. Yet, Peter adamantly denied his knowledge of Jesus – and the rooster crowed, Jesus turned and looked at Peter, and Peter remembered Jesus' words. So, he went out and wept bitterly (Matthew 26:75).

Now, as you consider this part of the Biblical record, you should recognize that something made Peter go from being a close follower of Jesus who pulled his sword and was ready to fight for Jesus to someone who followed Jesus at a distance. And, as you consider this, you should recognize that there are many people today who are following Jesus at a distance. However, like we saw with Peter, following Jesus at a distance never results in anything but sorrow and misery!

The fact is that Jesus expects more from His disciples than following Him at a distance. For instance, Jesus taught, “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. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:26-27). Then, Luke 14:33 says, “In the same way, therefore, every one of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.” So, Jesus wants His disciples to put Him first (above everything and everyone) and follow Him wherever He leads. And, He said, “Anyone who is not with me is against me, and anyone who does not gather with me scatters” (Matthew 12:30).

Therefore, Jesus does not approve of anyone following Him at a distance. Still, there are many who do so. So, we need to take a closer look at how so many people are guilty of following Jesus at a

distance – with the hopes of convincing anyone who tries to follow Jesus in this way to draw closer to Him.

## What It Means To Follow Jesus At A Distance

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What exactly does it mean to follow Jesus at a distance today? Although Peter literally kept some distance between himself and Jesus, you do not follow Him literally. Yet, you can still be just as guilty of following Him at a distance.

*It means you are somewhat interested in following Jesus*

First, following Jesus at a distance means that you *are* somewhat interested in following Jesus. Think about it. There was some reason Peter followed Jesus (albeit at a distance) rather than just going his own way and going on with his own life. Perhaps he felt some kind of allegiance to Jesus. Perhaps he wanted to see what was going to happen to Jesus. Perhaps he knew that following Jesus was the right thing to do. Whatever it was, he was interested in maintaining some relationship with Jesus.

In the same way, many people who follow Jesus at a distance today want to have some kind of a relationship with Him (albeit a distant one). Perhaps they want to call and think of themselves as Christians. Perhaps they have always been taught to follow Jesus. Perhaps they want to please their parents, other family members, or friends. Perhaps they want the comfort of eternal salvation in Heaven. Perhaps, deep down, they know that following Jesus is the right thing to do. Perhaps they think that following some of Jesus' teachings will improve their earthly lives.

So, there may be many different motivators for why people follow Jesus at a distance. But, it all boils down to the fact that there is some degree of interest in or something to be gained from an association with Jesus Christ. However, this interest in believing in Jesus and doing what He says

(through the pages of the New Testament) does not draw them as close to Jesus as He desires.

*It means you are not willing to follow Jesus anywhere He leads*

Second, following Jesus at a distance means that you are *not* willing to follow Jesus anywhere He leads. The distance Peter kept between himself and Jesus surely allowed Peter to observe whether he would have to suffer for following Him. If following Jesus ever became more dangerous and costly than he desired, he could choose to bail out. And, this is exactly what Peter did. He could see the danger Jesus was in. So, whenever he was asked and accused about his association with Jesus, he bailed out and denied Him.

In the same way, the distance people often put between themselves and Jesus allows them to see how difficult something will be before they follow Jesus through it. It gives them enough distance so that they can choose to bail out on Jesus if it ever becomes too difficult. If they see that following Jesus closely is going to cost them their relationships, is going to hurt them physically or financially, is going to cost them physical pleasures, etc., they can simply deny Him.

So, following Jesus at a distance gives people many opportunities to evaluate whether they really want to pay the price of following where Jesus leads. If they don't like the difficulties or sacrifices along the path, they will take a detour (at least momentarily). They will try to bypass the struggles and sacrifices with the hopes of picking up Jesus on the other side of them.

*It means you only want partial association with Jesus*

Third, following Jesus at a distance means that you only want *partial* association with Jesus. Peter had surely seen enough from Jesus to know that He really is the Son of God. He was convinced that it was right to follow Him. However, following Jesus too closely on this occasion could certainly result in physical danger. So, Peter found what seemed to be an "in between" place of following Jesus and maintaining enough distance so that he would not

have to be associated with Jesus by anyone who would harm him (evidenced by his denial of Jesus).

In the same way, the distance people put between themselves and Jesus allows them to look like true followers when they want to, but not when they don't want to. Whenever the right people are around, they call themselves Christians and act as if they follow Christ. However, when other people are around, they are not so closely associated with Christ that they are linked with Him.

So, following Jesus at a distance gives people the opportunity to choose when they want to be associated with Him. Whenever it seems advantageous for them to associate with Jesus, they will claim to follow Him. However, whenever it seems like it will cost them more than they are willing to pay, they can act like or claim to have no association with Jesus.

## Examples Of Following Jesus At A Distance

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Now that we have seen what following Jesus at a distance looks like in general terms, let's consider some specific examples of this. For, while we cannot choose to follow Jesus at a distance in a literal way, we can do the same thing whenever we distance ourselves from His teachings in the New Testament (which also includes the teachings of His apostles and prophets). Consider the following examples and evaluate if you are guilty of following Jesus at a distance in any area of your life (recognizing that these examples are far from the only ones).

### *Attendance*

After someone becomes a disciple of Christ by hearing God's word, believing Jesus Christ is the Son of God, repenting of sin, confessing Christ, and being baptized, God's word demonstrates the need for that individual to join a local church that follows the New Testament pattern (see Acts 9:26-28). One part of local church membership is attending all the assemblies of the church an individual is able to

attend. For instance, Hebrews 10:24-25 says, "And let us watch out for one another to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching."

While there are some things that are outside a person's ability to control which may prevent him/her from assembling (i.e. sickness), Jesus clearly expects His disciples not to neglect these opportunities to gather together with their brothers and sisters in Christ. Therefore, His followers ought to make assembling at these designated times a priority in their lives, marking them down on their calendars and scheduling other things around these times! In fact, assembling at these times ought to be non-negotiable as it relates to things you can control!

However, many Christians follow Jesus at a distance in this area. They allow their own activities or their children's activities such as sports, concerts, events, etc. to come first. They choose to take a job that will require them to be absent a significant amount (when they have other viable options). They allow themselves to work unnecessary overtime rather than assembling. They put their family members and friends before the assemblies. They wear themselves out doing many other unnecessary things so that they don't feel up to assembling. There are many ways people can follow Jesus at a distance in this area.

### *Service*

Even while Jesus was on this earth, He taught the need for His followers to be servants. For example, in Matthew 20:20-28, Jesus taught that true greatness in His kingdom is found through serving – not being served. In John 13:1-17, Jesus also taught His disciples to serve by giving them the example of washing their feet (even washing the feet of the one He knew would betray Him). And, passages like Galatians 6:10 directly commands, "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us work for the good of all, especially for those who belong to the household of faith."

Notice that Jesus wants His followers to do everything they can to serve and do good for other

people. Certainly, this includes serving them physically whenever we see someone in need (such as giving someone money, helping someone complete a task, taking someone to a doctor, etc.). But, this also includes serving people spiritually in whatever ways we can help them be saved from sin and go to Heaven (i.e. by teaching them the gospel, by encouraging them to follow Christ, by correcting those who sin, by visiting those who need encouraged, etc.).

However, many Christians follow Jesus at a distance in this area. Rather than putting the needs of others before their own interests, they will only help and do good for others whenever it is easy, convenient, and not too costly to do so. They will not inconvenience themselves or their families with the troubles of others. They will not give of themselves in the way God requires. They will only choose to serve certain people. They will help people physically, but not teach the lost how to be saved, encourage those who are Christians, or correct those who have wandered back into sin. There are many ways for people to follow Jesus at a distance in this area.

### *Clothing*

Jesus teaches His disciples through the apostle Paul about the importance of clothing themselves in the proper way. 1 Timothy 2:9-10 says, “Also, the women are to dress themselves in modest clothing, with decency and good sense, not with elaborate hairstyles, gold, pearls, or expensive apparel, but with good works, as is proper for women who profess to worship God.”

There is a way in which Jesus’ followers clothe themselves that fits with people who profess to worship God – and a way that does not. So, those who truly want to follow Jesus aren’t going to be trying to blur the line between the two kinds of clothing. Instead, Christians will do everything within their ability to clothe themselves modestly, with decency, and good sense that reflects the desire to glorify God through their clothing. The Christian’s focus in clothing himself/herself is for attention to be brought to God – not himself/herself.

However, many Christians follow Jesus at a distance in this area. While professing to be Christians, they unclasp what God wants them to clothe. They wear tight-fitting clothes that shows off their bodies. They wear clothing with inappropriate words or pictures on them. They put wearing “fashionable” clothing ahead of wearing clothing that praises God. They want to dress as much like the world as they can. They put their own comfort first and compromise God’s standards in the name of “staying cool.” There are many ways people follow Jesus at a distance in this area.

### *Habits*

Jesus cares about the pattern of behavior that is demonstrated by His people (which we call “habits”). For instance, Matthew 5:13-16 says, “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? It’s no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

Jesus wants you to be aware of all the things you do and say in your life. Although it is okay to develop certain habits, you must put each one to the test (as 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 instructs). Hold on to the good ones that help you serve God – such as having a regular time to study the Bible each day, having set times for prayer, etc. But, you must stay away from every habit that fails to glorify God.

However, many Christians follow Jesus at a distance in this area. While claiming to follow Christ, they consume intoxicating beverages. They do drugs. They smoke cigarettes, chew tobacco, rub snuff, etc. They use profanity and take God’s name in vain. They overeat. They are lazy. They look at pornography. There are many ways people follow Jesus at a distance in this area.

# Why People Follow Jesus At A Distance

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Although many people call themselves Christians, they often will do many of the things we have just been discussing that do not fit with following Jesus. So, like Peter, they follow Jesus at a distance. But, why do people call themselves and act like Christians sometimes and in some areas – and then fail to do so at other times and in other areas? Consider a few reasons people try to follow Jesus in this way.

## *Fear*

Just as fear appears to have been the main reason Peter followed Jesus at a distance, it is probably the main reason many people follow Him at a distance today. Like Peter, they are afraid of the consequences of following Jesus too closely. Perhaps it can lead them into physical harm. Perhaps it can result in being isolated from people they love. Perhaps it will cause them to miss out on something they want to participate in.

And, Jesus has made it plainly known that there is plenty of cost that will be involved in following Him (as we saw earlier from Luke 14). In fact, He wants people to count the cost and make sure they are willing to follow Him all the way. He warns people that they will be expected to put Him first in everything and that following Him will not always be easy. In fact, He even helps people recognize that following Him could cost them their physical lives. So, as many people consider these things, they try to follow Him at a distance so as to avoid the negative earthly consequences but still enjoy the blessings of being associated with Him.

Yet, Jesus clearly teaches that people must not allow fear to get in the way of following Him like they should. For instance, Matthew 10:28 says, “Don’t fear those who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul; rather, fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” So, rather than fearing the physical things that can happen to you for

following Jesus, you should choose to fear the spiritual consequences of not serving God more!

## *Apathy*

Some people follow Jesus at a distance just because they do not really care what they do. They just kind of go wherever the wind blows them at the moment. So, they are just lukewarm followers of Jesus – only following Him whenever they feel like doing so. They don’t really have any kind of burning desire to follow Him every day and endure the challenges that are associated with doing so. Yet, they also don’t have any real hostility toward Jesus so as not to follow Him sometimes.

However, Jesus clearly taught a kind of discipleship that was very intentional. The people who follow Him would never do so by accident. Instead, they would live every moment of their lives with the intentionality of choosing to follow Him and do His will rather than live for their own earthly desires. Furthermore, true followers of Jesus follow Him in this way because of their love for Him – not simply because it is easy or convenient for them to do so.

Jesus taught against the kind of lukewarm “Christianity” many practice today, in Revelation 3:14-22. As He addressed lukewarm Christians in Laodicea, He said, “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I am going to vomit you out of my mouth” (verses 15-16). In fact, He commanded them to “be zealous and repent” (verse 19). Therefore, lacking a passion about following Christ so that you only follow Him sometimes fails to please Jesus.

## *Desire to fit in*

God’s people have always fought the battle between standing up and standing out in order to follow God and blending in with the people around them. So, like following Jesus at a distance allowed Peter to blend in with the others in the courtyard, many people follow Jesus at a distance today in order to blend in with all the other people on this earth. They want to be like their friends. They want to do the things they see other people doing. They want to

be accepted by their peers. You see, following Jesus at a distance doesn't require anyone to look too out of place on this earth.

Yet, the kind of discipleship Jesus calls people to is a "radical" sort. That is, the people who truly follow Him will stick out from the rest of the world. As we saw in Matthew 5:13-16, they will be like salt that tries to season the world. They will be like light burning in the middle of the darkness. They will be like an illuminated city that is set up on a hill. And, the darker the world gets by sinning against God, the more the true follower of Jesus Christ will stand out!

Jesus addressed the failure to shine as a light in the world or work to season the world in that same passage. For instance, Jesus said that when salt loses its taste, it is "no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet" (Matthew 5:13). Then, Jesus says that no one "lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand" so that it can give light to all who are in the house (Matthew 5:15). However, many people carry baskets with them so that they can cover (and not completely extinguish) their lights whenever they are around certain people so as not look too out of place. But, this fails to truly glorify God at all times.

### *Selfishness*

Ultimately, no matter what drives you to follow Jesus at a distance, it boils down to a matter of selfishness. Everything about whether or not to follow Jesus is a choice between yourself and Jesus. And, like Peter chose to put his own selfish interests and desires before Jesus whenever he followed Jesus at a distance, those who follow Jesus at a distance today do so because it is believed to be advantageous for themselves. They may believe that following Jesus at a distance allows them to have the hope of everlasting life in Heaven *and* fulfill their own earthly pleasures, have whatever earthly relationships they desire to have, or accumulate as many earthly treasures as they can.

However, truly following Jesus is not about your own earthly life. You can see this in the way Jesus lived His own life. Surely, if Jesus had meant

for discipleship to be about living to please yourself, He would have given us an example of selfish living. But, He didn't.

Everything about how Jesus lived His life was to please and glorify His Heavenly Father. So, He gave Himself as a sacrifice, endured great mistreatment, denied His own physical desires and pleasures, refused earthly treasures, etc. in order to fulfill His true purpose. And, when you recognize that Jesus gave Himself in this way so that you can be saved from your sin, you should choose not to live for your own selfish pleasures but to live for the one who gave Himself for you! 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 says, "For the love of Christ compels us, since we have reached this conclusion: If one died for all, then all died. And he died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for the one who died for them and was raised."

## What Results From Following Jesus At A Distance

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Regardless of why people may follow Jesus at a distance (and why you may choose to follow Jesus at a distance), you must recognize what it *actually* accomplishes. While people may want it to allow them to have spiritual hope and still live to please themselves, it never results in anything that is good. Consider some things the Scriptures teach results from following Jesus at a distance.

### *Live as Jesus' enemy*

Whenever Peter followed Jesus at a distance and sat in the courtyard among all Jesus' enemies, perhaps Peter saw himself as being different from all those who wished to do Jesus harm. Yet, he really was no different. Although he did not offer false testimony against Jesus, he also did not stand up and present true testimony in support of Jesus. So, rather than being Jesus' friend in a courtyard full of enemies, Peter was just another enemy.

Whenever people follow Jesus at a distance, they want to think they are still following Him. But, in reality, they are not. Remember that Jesus plainly



taught, “Anyone who is not with me is against me, and anyone who does not gather with me scatters” (Matthew 12:30). If you don’t try to closely follow Jesus every step of your life, you are against Him as one of His many enemies. Remember also that Jesus said He would vomit those who are lukewarm out of His mouth (Revelation 3:15-16). So, you are not doing Jesus any favors by following Him at a distance!

### *Live a hypocritical life*

The definition of hypocrisy involves living a double life. In fact, the word has its roots in theater. So, whenever someone was onstage, he/she would hold up a particular mask and act a particular way. However, whenever he/she was not onstage, the mask would be put down and he/she would act normally. This is exactly what happens when people follow Jesus at a distance. They play like they are disciples whenever it is advantageous for them to do so. But, whenever the winds shift, they live in a different way.

While many people seem to think that such hypocrisy will be “good enough” to get them into Heaven, Jesus has consistently demonstrated His hatred for such hypocrisy. For instance, Jesus called out the hypocrisy of some religious people in Matthew 23:27-28, saying, “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which appear beautiful on the outside, but inside are full of the bones of the dead and every kind of impurity. In the same way, on the outside you seem righteous to people, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.” Jesus knows what is in everyone’s heart. And, even though people can fool others through their hypocrisy, they will never fool Jesus!

### *Live with false hope*

While the devil wants people to think that following Jesus at a distance offers them “the best of both worlds,” this couldn’t be further from the truth. Only serving Jesus some of the time will *not* result in everlasting life in Heaven! Yet, those who do so cling to the hope of eternal life in Heaven whenever things become difficult in their lives.

For instance, whenever Jesus addressed the lukewarm Christians in Laodicea, they really did think they were living in the right ways and had the hope of everlasting life in Heaven. Yet, they were not on the path that leads to everlasting life in Heaven. Revelation 3:17-18 says, “For you say, ‘I’m rich; I have become wealthy and need nothing,’ and you don’t realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked. I advise you to buy from me gold refined in the fire so that you may be rich, white clothes so that you may be dressed and your shameful nakedness not be exposed, and ointment to spread on your eyes so that you may see.” So, while people who follow Jesus at a distance think they have eternal life, they actually have no such hope!

### *Live a miserable life*

Many times, people do try to follow Jesus at a distance to find what they perceive to be the “best of both worlds.” The reason they try to follow Jesus sometimes is so that they can be comforted by the hope of Heaven and maintain the claim to be Christians. But, the reason they follow Him at a distance is so that they can please themselves. So, they straddle the fence and never really pick a side.

However, rather than this kind of life resulting in people finding joy, it results in misery, guilt, and sorrow. When they live for Jesus, they feel as if they miss out on the earthly pleasures, treasures, and relationships. But, when they live for themselves, they feel guilty for doing the things they know they should not do. And, even though they may deceive themselves so as to think they have the hope of eternal life, this hope is never the same true hope that brings real peace true followers of Christ have! Therefore, like Peter after he denied Jesus, these people weep bitterly (Matthew 26:75) throughout their lives because they never truly find what they are searching for!

### *Will suffer eternal punishment*

The reality is that not only is eternal life in Heaven a false hope for those who follow Jesus at a distance, but they will also be eternally punished in Hell. You see, following Jesus at a distance is actually *no better* than not following Him at all.

Instead, in many ways, it is actually worse (in that you deceive yourself and others).

Just listen to Jesus in Matthew 7:21-23 as He describes those who would profess to believe in and follow Him, but would not do everything the Father instructs. “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!’” This perfectly describes those who follow Jesus at a distance. They will all be very disappointed on the Day of Judgment when Jesus Christ sentences them all to eternity in Hell!

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## Getting Closer To Jesus

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As we have considered the concept of following Jesus at a distance, I hope that you recognize that long distance relationships with Jesus never work out! Therefore, I hope you are determined to follow Jesus as closely as He demands and deserves. And, as you consider this, listen to what Jesus teaches in Luke 9:23-26. “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.”

### *Deny yourself*

Being a true disciple of Jesus Christ will certainly mean that you will be in situations where you must choose between pleasing yourself and pleasing Christ. So, you must choose beforehand that you will deny your own desires and follow Christ. Nothing you want out of life can be more important than what Christ wants out of your life!

### *Take up your cross daily*

Being a true disciple of Jesus Christ will mean that there will be struggles and challenges. People who are not interested in serving Christ will mistreat and hate you. You will be ridiculed. You will be called to suffer physically and emotionally. But, you must recognize that following Jesus is worth enduring every suffering and take up your cross every day!

### *Follow Jesus wherever He leads*

Being a true disciple of Jesus Christ means that you cannot just be a “fair-weather-follower.” Not only must you follow Jesus when it is easy and convenient to do so, but you must also follow Him through the hard times. You must be 100% committed to following Him. Although you may occasionally fall short of what you should do, your commitment must be that you will follow Him closely no matter where He leads – even if following Him costs you your physical life and every physical thing you have! After all, Jesus Christ gave His life for you!

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## Conclusion

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You cannot follow Jesus at a distance if you want to be a true disciple of Christ and spend eternity in Heaven. You have to make a choice. In Matthew 6:24, Jesus put it this way: “No one can serve two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” Which side of the “fence” will you choose to be on? Will you truly follow Jesus or will you not? You cannot do both!

# Study Questions

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How did Peter follow Jesus at a distance? How do many people do the same today?

## **1. What It Means To Follow Jesus At A Distance**

How does following Jesus at a distance mean that you are somewhat interested in following Jesus?

How does following Jesus at a distance mean that you are not willing to follow Jesus anywhere He leads?

How does following Jesus at a distance mean that you only want partial association with Jesus?

## **2. Examples Of Following Jesus At A Distance**

How can people follow Jesus at a distance in their attendance?

How can people follow Jesus at a distance in their service?

How can people follow Jesus at a distance in their clothing?

How can people follow Jesus at a distance in their habits?

## **3. Why People Follow Jesus At A Distance**

How does fear cause people to follow Jesus at a distance?

How does apathy cause people to follow Jesus at a distance?

How does a desire to fit in cause people to follow Jesus at a distance?

How does selfishness cause people to follow Jesus at a distance?

## **4. What Results From Following Jesus At A Distance**

How is following Jesus at a distance connected with being Jesus' enemy?

How is following Jesus at a distance connected with living a hypocritical life?

How is following Jesus at a distance connected with a false hope?

How is following Jesus at a distance connected with a miserable life?

How is following Jesus at a distance connected with eternal punishment?

## **5. Getting Closer To Jesus**

What does Luke 9:23-26 instruct you to do to follow Jesus?