



## FOLLOWERS Part 2 Who's Following Whom?



→ How do you instinctively respond to Jesus' call to follow Him? If you're honest, would you say that you are? Is there room for change? What would radically following Him look like?

We tend to forget that our 'solar system' revolves around GOD, not US.

- \* If Jesus is at the centre of our LIFE, HOME, SOCIETY there's BALANCE, ORDER, SHALOM.
  - \* As soon as He's DETHRONED, we're in BIG TROUBLE.
  - \* Systems that put anything else in GOD'S PLACE are doomed to CHAOS.
  - \* If we try to make our world REVOLVE AROUND US it's just not going to work.
- How does following Jesus / making Him undisputed Lord reorder our lives, affect our homes and influence our society?

We take OURSELVES far too SERIOUSLY and fail to take GOD anything like SERIOUSLY enough!

- \* Are we following JESUS as LORD and MASTER and KING OR hoping HE will follow US?
  - \* Key word = SEDUCTION. The enemy is trying to ENTICE, DISTRACT, and CONFUSE us away from following Jesus.
  - \* Because he knows how DANGEROUS a RADICAL follower can be.
- Why is a radical follower so dangerous to the enemy?  
→ Do you take yourself too seriously? Do you take the Lord seriously enough? Is there an imbalance to be corrected in your life?

### THE AGENDA / C21st PROBLEMS / ROMANS 12:2 MOULD

- a) INDIVIDUALISM: Makes it all about ME.
  - b) NARCISSISM: Look at ME.
  - c) MATERIALISM More and more STUFF for ME.
  - d) ENTITLEMENT: The world exists to serve ME.
- Do you find yourself tugged at by any of these? Do you notice them in culture, in media, in your children, in those around you? Why are they so dangerous? How does the social media world feed them?  
→ What is your relationship with social media? Is it healthy?

These are DELUSIONS which social media culture FUELS.

- \* Creates unhealthy COMPARISON, feeds your INSECURITY, creates a false REALITY.
- \* Above all, endeavours to make YOU the centre of the 'solar system.'

We're not FOOLISH and GULLIBLE enough to FOLLOW the devil DIRECTLY, so his strategy is to get us to DETHRONE GOD and to replace him with SELF.

→ How does this work? What is the enemy's strategy? How does he get us to dethrone God? Why does replacing God with self play into the devil's hands?

- \* Be careful we don't have all this UPSIDE-DOWN (see Luke 9:23).

## 2 CHARACTERISTICS OF A TRUE FOLLOWER

### **1. OBEY His WORD (John 8:31, 14:15,21)**

- \* Your LOVE for Christ can be measured accurately by your LOVE for and OBEDIENCE of His WORD.
- \* We follow it, not as a cruel, demanding and unfair TASKMASTER but as a holy, positive, inspiring, liberating INVITATION from the Shepherd of our souls.

→ Why is obeying God's Word so crucial? Do you really prioritise it in your life? Does it take first place? How would you best describe yourself: obedient / reluctant / questioning / can't get there quick enough?

- \* Full of TRUTH to set us FREE.
- \* Full of WISDOM to GUIDE our steps.
- \* Full of NOURISHMENT to FEED our soul.
- \* Full of GOODNESS to RENEW, GUARD, INFORM our mind.
- \* We need His WORD at the centre of our 'solar system' NOT our OPINIONS or EXPERIENCES or FEELINGS or DESIRES.

→ What rules your decision-making? Is it God's Word? Or do you turn first to your personal opinion, your past experience, your in-the-moment feelings or your driving desires? How do we notice this playing out in culture and why and how is the enemy trying to undermine God's Word?

- \* Jesus' call to follow Him should create a new PASSION and DETERMINATION for His Word, ways, heart.

→ Are you passionate and determined? What steps could you take to cultivate an innate hunger and quick obedience? Do you use the Barn Bible Reading plan? Do you have something else you could recommend? Have you used any of the Recommended Resources we've been featuring recently? Any you'd recommend?

### **2. SUBMIT to His WILL (Job 22:21, Isaiah 1:19)**

- \* DEFER to Him ... He gets to CHOOSE ... His way WINS ... His PRIORITIES trump yours (Philippians 2:9-11)
- \* Otherwise He becomes a God created in OUR IMAGE to SERVE US, when it should clearly be the other way round!
- \* The world would convince you that submission is WEAK, when the truth is submitting to Jesus is the only way to find true FREEDOM, PEACE and JOY.

→ Does the idea of submission get a bad press generally? How? How does the world undermine authority and discourage submission? Why is submission to the Lord so crucial and how do we do it?

→ In the light of all this, should it be Facebook-following or disciple-following?