

LESSON 8 - CHRISTIAN FAITH: CHOOSING TO FOLLOW JESUS

From the previous chapters we were discussing about various relationships with different people and also how our relationship with God is. We keep God in the center of our life. By knowing Jesus so much what are we? Are we his Fans / his Disciples or his followers? There were people in the Bible who went to Jesus only to get physical needs (Healing, food etc.) They did not follow him till the cross. They only enjoyed his miracles. If I am a Fan of any person then I imitate his hairstyle/wear his band/ T shirt etc. We as baptized Catholics wear wrist band / T shirt of Jesus. Are we following him? Or we require him only when we are in trouble. Jesus is inviting us through the Eucharist to have fellowship with him, to follow him and be with him forever.

John 15: 14-17 Jesus says you are my friends, he tells us about his heavenly father. We did not choose him but he has chosen us & appointed us to bear fruits. He gives us invitation to be his disciples and follow him.

Jesus gives invitation & people reject him

Mathew 19: 21: Jesus gives invitation to the rich man who had kept all the commandments to give his wealth to the poor and then come and follow him. Bible says the rich man goes home sad. What is obstructing you and me to follow Jesus? (Wealth, Ego, Pride, etc.)

Luke 9:59-60: Jesus says come follow me. The person says I want to bury my father & goes away. Are we instantly doing when it comes to spiritual things or we give excuses & say tomorrow is a holiday & I shall do it later? Do we give time to God?

How the disciples responded to his invitation

Matthew 9:9, Mark 2:14, John 1:43-45

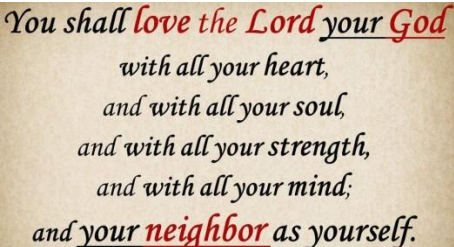
They left everything and followed him. Our priority should be the same to do things unstintingly if we are his true followers / disciples.

True follower of Jesus

"Jesus say who does the will of my father are my disciples & the 2 commandments loving God & loving Neighbor "

We see Mother Mary fulfilling the above 2 statements.

She accepted God's invitation to become the mother of God instantly and trusted in him and gave birth to Jesus and followed him from his birth to the cross. She also served her cousin during her pregnancy. Similarly, God is inviting you and me also. Do we except his invitation?



*You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
and with all your soul,
and with all your strength,
and with all your mind;
and your neighbor as yourself.*

Practical follower of Jesus in our times

Mother Theresa

She loved Jesus and was always attached to him and his mother Mary and also showed Jesus to the entire world by humbly serving the poor, leper, she would see the face of Jesus. She did not bother what the people of other faith made fun of her. She loved Jesus and followed him till the end of her life. with the Rosary in her hand and telling the whole world to pray the Rosary and you will see miracles happening in your life.

Faith in Jesus

Our faith in Jesus should be very strong, no matter what. Jesus is there for me all the time.

Luke 18:35-43: The blind man had faith in him and so Jesus could cure him.

Jesus is asking us what do you want me to do for you?

Qualities of Jesus



Benefits of following Jesus

- He forgives your sins and offers you eternal life.
- He redeems your life, crowns you with love and compassion, and restores your soul.
- He satisfies your desires with good things (His blessings are tailor-made for you).
- He does not treat you as you deserve to be treated (based on your sins) or repay you according to your iniquities (even though your sins separate you from Him for eternity).
- He is patient with you and loves you greatly (His love never gives up on you).
- He has compassion on you (just as a father has compassion on his children) and adopts you into His family and kingdom.

Bible Study: 1 Samuel 10

1. How did Samuel appoint the new king?
Samuel took a vial of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him; he said, "The LORD has anointed you ruler over his people Israel.
2. As king what was Saul supposed to do?
You shall reign over the people of the LORD and you will save them from the hand of their enemies all around.
3. What was the 1st sign Saul would receive?
He would meet two men by Rachel's tomb and they will say to him "The donkeys that you went to seek are found, and now your father has stopped worrying about them and is worrying about you, saying: What shall I do about my son?
4. What was the 2nd Sign?
He would meet three men at the oak of Tabor, one carrying three kids, another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a skin of wine. They will greet you and give you two loaves of bread.
5. What was the 3rd Sign?
You will meet a band of prophets coming down from the shrine with harp, tambourine, flute, and lyre playing in front of them.
6. Who was the new King ?
Saul the son of Kish, of the tribe of the Benjaminites.
7. How was he in Stature
He was head and shoulders taller than any of them.
8. What did Samuel do after presenting the new King to the people ?
Samuel told the people the rights and duties of the kingship; and he wrote them in a book and laid it up before the LORD.
9. Who was Nahash?
Nahash, was king of the Ammonites
10. How did he oppress the Gadites and the Reubenites
He grievously oppressed the Gadites and the Reubenites. He would gouge out the right eye of each of them and would not grant Israel a deliverer.

To Do List for Child:

Activity: Getting the Message (Pages 12 to 14)

Read: 1 Samuel Chapter 10

To Do List for Parents:

Please ensure your child learns the below prayers during the week:

- Two Commandments of Love
- Seven Sacraments