



Courageous Fighting Followers

December 2, 2018

Big Question: Can you name the person you have faithfully followed?

Text: Matthew 16:24

- 24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him **deny himself**, and **take up his cross**, and **follow Me**.

Review: We live in a culture of people who oftentimes, from their youth, have not really followed anyone without resistance for a long period of time. Our confidence in church leaders, political leaders and corporate leaders is at an all-time low. The tragedy is that we have developed an anti-follower approach to life. It is hard to be a good leader if you have never been a good follower. In our country, we like leadership more than followership. In Scripture and in many countries around the world the emphasis is on followership. In the book, “Discovering Followership: Learn the Secrets of Walking Behind and Staying Ahead” by Omokai Imoukhuede he says:

“Followership is perceived as a forced condition of servitude that impedes individuality and results in the loss of identity of the person following. However [*sic*] nothing could be further from the truth, ...true followership is actually a tool of empowerment and a launching pad for the release of a follower’s individuality and potential.”

I. Two Things That Can Make Following Difficult

1. Following Can Seem Like You Are In A Weak Position

- A. You don’t get to set the agenda
- B. You don’t get to set the schedule
- C. You don’t get to control the resources

2. Following Can Feel Like Your Life Is In The Hands of Someone Else

- A. You must submit philosophically (Your way is not primary)
- B. You must submit verbally (You can’t lead the conversation)
- C. You must submit financially (You don’t control the money)

II. Four Observations About Jesus’ Followers Matthew 20:20–28

1. Jesus had followers with ambition (They had big visions and dreams)

- 20 Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him. 21 And He said to her, “What do you wish?” “She said to Him, “Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom.”

2. Jesus had followers with courage (“We are able”)

- 22 But Jesus answered and said, “You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” They said to Him, “**We are able.**”

3. Jesus taught his followers that desire was not enough (Some things are not just given to you)

- 23 So He said to them, “You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father.”

4. Jesus taught his followers that serving was the highest call (Where do you serve?)

- 24 And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers. 25 But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. 26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but **whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.** 27 And **whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave**—28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Conclusion: How good of a servant-follower are you?

III. Eight Questions That Will Help You Test Your Servant-Followership

1. Who are you following and where do you serve?
2. What are you willing to consistently deny yourself?
3. What cross are you willing to consistently carry?
4. Who would testify on your behalf that you are a good servant-follower?
5. Are you frustrated because your spouse does not serve you enough?
6. Are you a single person looking for someone to follow and serve you?
7. Are you a frustrated employee because your job does not serve you enough?
8. Are you a frustrated parent because your children do not serve you enough?

Next Time: Courageous Faith (What Is Impossible for You?)

Read Ahead: Hebrews 11:6

- 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Big Thought: Because of the way some people live, the way they think, and the choices they make, some things are impossible for them. This series will explore what is possible for you and what is impossible for you. All of this according to Hebrews 11:6 is tied to your faith. You will discover that faith is not just believing. Faith is best seen in your actions.