

Bay City Wesleyan Church
April 30, 2017

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Sunday Morning 04-30-2017

Our Challenge for 2017 is to regularly ask Jesus, "Am I following you?"

When was the last time you asked?

<http://bible.com/events/211279>

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[Image]

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http://d1o2alqw72z1h8.cloudfront.net/5722009-1483223017441_152x152.jpg

Our theme for 2017 is Jesus' invitation, "Follow me."

These two simple words will transform every person that accepts the challenge. I pray that in the next few months all of us in this church, as well as those who join us, will see Jesus more clearly, love him more dearly, and follow him more nearly.

A Quick Review

Everybody is invited to follow Jesus.

It's an invitation to a relationship (not to a religion and not a list of rules.)

Being a sinner is a prerequisite.

Having doubts and questions are also prerequisites.

The goal is a faith in God that overwhelms your fears.

Jesus followers dress alike - LOVE.

Following Jesus will eventually cost you something. (Not following Jesus will cost you everything.)

When you follow Jesus, you will want what he wants more than you want what you want.

We are wrapping up this series by addressing a temptation every Jesus follower will face at least once. Most of us will deal with the temptation to unfollow Jesus multiple times throughout our lives.

John 6:53-66 NIV

Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?" Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I

have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them." From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

<http://bible.com/111/jhn.6.53-66.NIV>

3 open doors:

Transitions

Temptations

Troubles

John 6:67-69 NIV

"You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God."

<http://bible.com/111/jhn.6.67-69.NIV>

Sermon in a Sentence:

Remember to ask this question: To whom shall I go?

Transitions, temptations, and troubles always create questions. The problem gets worse when you start to think that since you have no answers now then there are no answers.

One question will create clarity in that fog of questions. "To whom shall I go?"