

UNDISTRACTED



At that very hour some Pharisees came, and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you."

And he said to them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course.'" (Luke 13)

Distract him?

Go ahead and threaten him.

Tempt him. Accuse him. Condemn him.

He remains focused.

He will preach, teach, heal, cast out demons, and then lay down his life at Jerusalem....

...like the prophets of old....

...as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.



When Jesus says, "Follow me", he expects us to do as he did.

To push all distractions aside and get on with it.

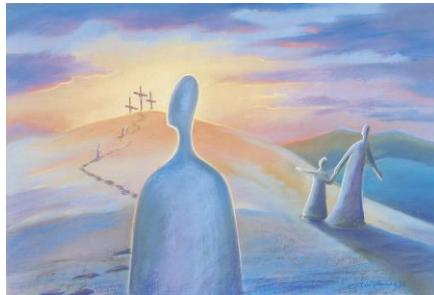
“Follow me” means....

Follow the way he thinks.

Follow the way he prays.

Follow the way he speaks.

Do what he does---the way he does it.



Follow the way he thinks.

Have this mind in you, which is also in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2)

The mind of Christ is the mind of a servant---a mind focused on serving the Master the way he served his Father.

Unless I think with the mind of Christ there is no way I can follow him.

Jesus has the mind of a servant. Do I?

Follow the way he prays.

When Jesus had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form, as a dove, and a voice came from heaven, "Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased." (Luke 3)

In these days he went out to the mountain to pray; and all night he continued in prayer to God. And when it was day, he called his disciples, and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles. (Luke 6)

And as he was praying, the appearance of his countenance was altered, and his raiment became dazzling white. (Luke 9)

***And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed,
"Father, if thou art willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless not my will, but
thine, be done."*** (Luke 22)



The foundation of everything Jesus did was prayer.

Early in the morning, late at night, and after feeding the five thousand, he would get alone so he could pray.

It is impossible to follow Jesus without walking in those footsteps of prayer.

Jesus said to his disciples, "pray like this".....and gave them the Lord's Prayer. He promised that the Holy Spirit would help them, if they would only ask. (see Luke 11)

Follow the way he speaks.

When Jesus speaks, there is no flattery, no froth, no wasted word, and no deceit.

Always and only he speaks living Truth.

Jesus had no patience with the Pharisees who for a pretense, made long prayers, who scoured the world looking for converts, and led them far from God, with their empty words. (see Matthew 23)

Idle words are not innocent. They are evil.

"You brood of vipers! how can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

The good man out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil man out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.

I tell you, on the day of judgment men will render account for every careless word they utter; for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Matthew12

Do what he does---the way he does it.

In obedience to his Father's will, he went to the lost sheep of the house of Israel and gave them hope.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." (Luke 4)

If we are following Jesus, he continues to fulfill this calling through us....

....as the Father sends people across our path...

....and as the Spirit leads us to the forgotten ones waiting for an invitation to the Kingdom Banquet.

The seed that fell by the wayside is picked up by the birds.

The seed on the rocky soil withers in the heat.

The seed sown among the thorns is choked out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life.

**But the seed on good soil produces abundantly,
because it is undistracted.**



Prayer: Lord how we need your help to be undistracted and get on with what you call us to. Give us your mind...help us to think the way you think. Give us longing hearts for the presence of the Father, so we can pray as we need to pray. And Lord may your truth, your goodness, your healing and your mercy spring out of our hearts unto our lips. Send us to the lost sheep, to the ones who are waiting to hear a good word, to grasp hope, to be freed from oppression and to see your beauty so they may flower into life in you. Amen. Maranatha Mirror

Message: Richard E. Bieber February 2021

Featured Artists: Jesus Goes Up to Jerusalem by James Tissot, the rest of the art courtesy of Ain Vares at anniversary. Com



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