

WHO ARE YOU REALLY FOLLOWING?



You say you're a follower of Jesus.

You're working for the Lord.

You're fighting his battles.

With guns?

With threats?

With anger and malice?

Wait a minute! When's the last time you actually checked in with Jesus?

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."



Matthew 5

Jesus does not need us to fight his battles.

He is Lord of Lords and King of Kings.

**The Lord is at your right hand;
He will crush kings on the day of his wrath.
He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead and crushing the rulers of the whole earth..**

Psalm 110

Jesus is simply waiting for us to follow him.

All the way to a cross!

**As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."
Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."**

**He said to another man, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."
Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."**

**Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family."
Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."**

Luke 9



Prayer: Lord, help us to stop fighting battles you never called us to fight. May we be appalled at and alarmed by the call to join battles that are spurred by the Deceiver, the Serpent... whose true objective is to strike at your feet, because their words, their calls are underpinned with anger, malice, intimidation, vengeance, threats, retaliation. Open our eyes to see the serpent behind their leading. Oh Lord, help us to refuse to follow any leader, any movement, any call to hurt others and take up the sword...turning our backs on all that you have taught us. Lord help us continue moving in, breathing in, and pouring out your mercy for the lost... even if it means we are shunned and scorned by the so-called Christian majority who aren't really willing to follow you wherever you go, who've let go of the plow to pick up the sword. Keep our hand from slipping from the plow and help us to lovingly, willingly embrace your upside down kingdom of peacemaking, of reconciliation, of forgiveness, of mercy, of love for our enemies...Keep us embracing your beautiful, beloved cross. Keep us fit for true service to your kingdom. Keep us following you. Amen.

Message: Richard E. Bieber October 2020

Featured Artist: Courtesy of Ramone Romero

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THE LAMB
WHO WAS SLAIN
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN

