

Pt 1 - **FOLLOW**

In this three part series, we will unpack the compelling simplicity of Jesus' message: **Follow - Believe - Obey.**

The driving force behind the Christian faith is a relationship with a living Saviour.

The tragedy is . . .

When we pursue a list of things to do, the Christian life becomes performance based instead of relational based.

Matthew 9:9

- **Jesus' Invitation to Matthew the Tax Collector**

Jewish tax collectors were the most despised group among the Jews. The Jews disliked being taxed, because it was a constant reminder of Roman oppression.

Why did Matthew seemingly without hesitation just get up and follow Jesus?

Jesus was not part of the religious establishment, but He was considered a Rabbi. So when Jesus says to Matthew *"Follow Me."* This got Matthews attention. **He was finally accepted!**

Matthew took a huge step to follow Jesus and from this point on, Jesus could effect change in Matthew's life.

This turn around in Mathew's life all hinged on his willingness to follow Jesus. The Christian life is a life of following Jesus.

- **The Pharisees Complaint against Jesus (vs. 10-13)**

The Pharisee's complaint was that Jesus was spending time with sinners, and not condemning them for their sin!

But Jesus was about restoring relationships and offering mercy, not maintaining rituals and routines.

- **Three things we learn about Jesus' invitation to follow Him:**

- 1. Jesus' invitation is extended to sinners. (vs. 12)**

Being a sinner is not automatic disqualification from following Jesus - it is a prerequisite!

- 2. Jesus' invitation is an invitation to a relationship with Him.**

God's plan is that we would *"be changed"* through being exposed to Jesus' love and acceptance of us – from this platform Jesus can initiate change in our life.

- 3. Jesus' invitation forces us to focus on where we are along the journey and not on others.**

When we are in **follow** mode, we are more conscious of the work Jesus has **yet** to do in us, and the less critical we are about what He has **yet** to do in others.

The question is not, *"How far along are we along the journey?"*
But rather, *"Are we still passionately following Jesus?"*

Conclusion

Following Jesus will cost us something.

Refusing to follow Him will cost us a whole lot more!