

## ***GOD'S PEOPLE FOLLOW HIM***

God said of His servant Caleb, “he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully” (Num. 14:24). In Deuteronomy 7:4, God warned that mixed marriages would result in the pagans turning “your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods”. When Nadab the son of Jeroboam, became king over Israel “he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father” (1 Kg. 15:26). In contrast, Jehoshaphat walked in the ways of his father Asa “doing what was right in the eyes of the LORD” (1 Kg. 22:42-43). Old Testament kings are generally described as doing evil or doing right as a characteristic way of life. Every good king had some good fruit.

Psalm 1:6 says, “The LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish.” Psalm 1 presents two men, two ways, and two destinies. Proverbs 20:11 says, “Even a child is known by his deeds, whether what he does is pure and right.” God told the people through Jeremiah, “And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.” (Jer. 29:13). In the promise of the restoration of His people, God says, “I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments to do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.” (Ezek. 11:19-20).

Jesus insists on being NUMBER ONE. In Matthew 10:37 He said, “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.” In Mark 10:21 He said to the rich young ruler, “Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up your cross, and follow Me.”

Thus, Jesus demands to be LORD over all other relationships and over all other possessions. Jesus said, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel’s, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life.” (Mk. 10:29-30)

The problem with the rich young ruler was his money god which he wasn’t willing to give up in exchange for the Lordship of Jesus Christ – the one true GOD. Jesus’ invitation is: “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn

from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” (Matt. 11:28-29).

In Matthew 10:24-25 the disciple/teacher relationship is used in a parallel sense with the slave/master relationship, and both are applied to Christ as the HEAD of the house. Jesus said to His disciples, “You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am.” (Jn. 13:13). Paul says physical slaves who are Christ’s people are “freedmen” but at the same time those who are free are “Christ’s slave” (1 Cor. 7:22). NOTE: Just as an earthly slave may be disobedient to his master, so too believers may be disobedient to their Lord (cf. Col. 4:1; 1 Pet. 1:14; Heb. 12:7-11).

**CHRIST IS THE MASTER TEACHER AND THE TEACHING MASTER - HE IS OUR LORD** (cf. Gal. 2:20, 5:24, 6:14; Rom. 6:6, 17, 14:7-9; 2 Cor. 5:15; 1Thess. 1:6).

Those that truly belong to Christ follow Him! True faith follows – not perfectly but certainly. Jesus said to the Jews of His day...

**John 10:26–28 (NKJV)**

**26** But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you.

**27** My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

**28** And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

Note the connection: True belief follows! It is these believers who follow that have the promise of eternal life. We are not saved by following, but we are saved by a faith that follows!

Do you follow?