

A DISTINCT PATH; A CLEAR CALL...WILL YOU FOLLOW HIM?

Alan Smith: October 14, 2018

- **Everyone follows something.**
- **What does it mean to follow Christ?**
 1. Being a disciple.
 2. Disciple: A follower or student of a teacher, leader, or philosopher.
- **What did following Jesus mean to the disciples?**
- **Disciples went where their rabbi went.**
 1. They slept where their rabbi slept.
 2. They ate what their rabbi ate.
 3. They shared their rabbi's passions.
 4. It also meant they could learn about God.
- **What does it look like to follow Jesus today?**
- **Recognize Him for who he really is.**
 1. He is the Son of God, the Savior of the world.
 2. Romans 10:9—Paul says, “If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved”.
- **The next step in following Him is to be baptized in His name.**
- **A disciple applies His teachings.**
 1. Jesus said it like this: John 8:31-32—“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (NIV)
- **Getting closer to Jesus.**
- **Crisis**
 1. Cri-sis: A time of intense difficulty, trouble, or danger.
 2. Difficulties of life will force us to consider Jesus.
 3. You find yourself in a place you do not want to be.
 4. Climbing mountains in life are difficult, they can be trouble, and they are often dangerous.
- **Fasting**
 1. Fasting: to abstain from something such as food or drink as a religious observance for a short period of time.
 2. Fasting and prayer bring surrender of body, soul, and spirit to Christ; and also generate a heightened sense of the presence of the Holy Spirit.
 3. It is a God-ordained form of self-denial.
 4. In short, it brings personal revival...
- **“God’s Word declares fasting and prayer as a powerful means for causing the fire of God to fall again in a person’s life.”—Dr. Bill Bright, Campus Crusade for Christ**
- **Discipline**
 1. Discipline: the practice of training people, a branch of knowledge, typically one studied in higher education.
 2. A discipline is the same as a continual daily fast.
 3. Matthew 16:24-26—24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.
- **You can trust a disciplined person.**
- **A disciple can take back authority that has been lost.**
 1. By being responsible.
- **Adam lost his authority when he gave up being responsible.**
 1. The one that is responsible, in charge, is the one that can respond.

2. Responsibility means the ability to act in authority.
- **In the garden God went to the one in charge.**
 1. The person He left in charge, Adam.
 2. Adam then put the responsibility on Eve. He blamed her.
 3. ¹² And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.
 4. Then Eve put the responsibility on the serpent. She blamed the serpent.
 5. And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.
 6. The serpent said nothing.
 - **When you blame something or someone, it becomes your ruler.**
 1. Blame in Hebrew means to hand to or deliver to.
 2. The word or name Nathan (Hebrew use) means “God will give” or “bestow upon”.
 - **God then spoke to the serpent first because he was in charge.**
 1. ¹⁴ And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:
 - **To whom or what are you giving your authority?**
 1. The word blame comes from the Latin word blaspheme.
 - **How do you give away your God-given authority?**
 1. I can't because I am not smart.
 2. I can't because I am too poor. You empower poverty.
 3. I can't because I was abused. You empower abuse.
 - **Two Types of Blame**
 1. Joseph was abused by his brothers, but did not blame them.
 2. Joseph was a slave and a prisoner, but became a ruler.
 3. Joseph keep his authority by not blaming others and then became ruler over all of them.
 4. False blame: best to stay quiet and own it through forgiveness.
 5. True blame: confession and repentance is admitting ownership.
 - **Do not let your circumstances in life define you.**
 1. You must own where you are in life to have the authority to change your life.
 2. Owning where you are makes you responsible and gives you your authority back.
 - **Jesus took the blame of the sins of the world.**
 - **What does it mean to follow Christ?**
 - **[Genesis 1:26](#)**—And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.
 - **Get your God-given authority back.**
 1. Your life really needs it.