

Episode: Servant of God Series No. 5

Narrator: Andrew

Primary Scriptures: Mat. 4:19, 10:38; John 8:12, 10:27, 12:26

Story Summary: Servants of God follow Jesus

Location: Israel

Time: 40 AD

Suggested Memory Scriptures: Matthew 4:19, John 12:26

In John 12:22, Jesus says, "Whoever serves me must follow me; and, where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me." The servants of Jesus follow him.

One of the most used metaphors in the Bible is that of sheep. In the beloved Psalm 23, David likens himself to a sheep that follows the Lord. He receives the obvious rewards of being the Lord's sheep, but at the end of the Psalm, he gets another reward. Psalm 23:6 says goodness and mercy will follow David all the days of his life because he follows the Lord.

In John 10:27-28, Jesus says, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life and they shall never perish." That eternal reward theme is found again in Matthew 19:28-29, where Jesus says at the renewal of all things, anyone who has followed him sacrificially will receive a hundred times as much and inherit eternal life.

It is recorded at least a dozen times in the New Testament that Jesus told people to follow him. In one sad case, the rich young ruler chose not to follow Jesus because he didn't want to give up his many possessions. Consequently, he went away a sad man.

The twelve apostles, the closest of Jesus's disciples, followed him at a close distance. They ate, slept, walked and prayed with Jesus. For almost three years they had a chance to learn exactly how best to mimic, to act like, to follow Jesus. Although we don't get to have that privilege, we do have the New Testament to show us how to follow Jesus, and we have the Holy Spirit to empower us to do so.

Jesus does not promise life will be pleasant or easy for the ones who choose to follow him. On two occasions (Matthew 10:38 and 16:24, along with parallel passages in Mark and Luke), Jesus says his followers must take up their crosses and follow him.

One of the characteristics of followers of Jesus is they are intent on making other followers of Jesus. As Jesus told Peter and Andrew in Mark 1:17, "Follow me and I will send you out to fish for people."

One nice thing about following Jesus is that you don't have to be a theological giant to do so. You just have to follow him and serve him. The Bible is very clear on how to do that.