

# LORDSHIP

## COST

— FOLLOW ME—

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“And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, if anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me”

—Mark 8:34

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Let us face it head on, we are by nature not good followers. Oh, we may have a certain propensity to do so but you may have heard the story of the parents instructing their child to sit down, to which the child responds, “I’m sitting down on the outside, but on the inside, I’m standing up.”

That is one of the cutest ways to describe how wretchedly sinfully we are in God’s sight. Jesus also uses a soft, cuddle, word picture as well in the form of sheep. We are all like sheep who have gone...astray. Which to translate that in our culture could be something like, “you do you”, “be true to your heart.”

If Jesus were to continue for our 21st century understanding and explain what happens when sheep stray in a land of predators, well the loving thing is not just to let you be you.

So, Jesus extends a gracious invitation to come and follow him.

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Nowhere is this notion of following Jesus laid out in Scripture in his own words than the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7. Jesus took the requirements of the Old Testament and radicalized them by moving them from the outside to the inside, our inner motivations by saying, "but I say to you."

Following must be done in a fresh way, the kingdom of God's way reflecting the very character of God. This means following will never be the outward means of some form of morality but will be driven by the transformation of God the Holy Spirit in the believer that will produce a way of living. Yes, of course a morality will "show up" in the life of a follower but we dare not get them out of order.

Following Jesus looks and feels totally different from the world. Following him means to be a servant of others, to be last not first, Mark 10:43-45.

If then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet, John 13:14

Where is your following Christ taking you? If it is not in the direction of serving, better check your navigation system.