

Subscriber or Follower?

A Concise Study Guide

Overview

This message contrasts being a *subscriber* to Jesus' teachings with being a *follower* (disciple). Using the rich young ruler (Mark 10:17-27), it shows that agreeing with God's standards is not the same as surrendering everything to follow Jesus. A productive disciple denies self, takes up their cross daily (Luke 9:23), makes Jesus Lord, moves only where He leads, and reproduces devotion to Him in others. Subscribers consume and stay while Jesus is useful; disciples obey, produce fruit, and stay because He is Lord.

Main Points

1. **Subscriber vs. Follower** – The rich young ruler kept the commandments about people but walked away sorrowfully when Jesus called him to sell all and follow. Agreement ≠ discipleship.
2. **Make Jesus Lord** – Submit to His authority so His word outweighs your will (Luke 6:46; 1 Peter 1:13-16). Conviction is not optional.
3. **Move where He wants you** – Obedience over busyness. Distinguish “good” things (manageable, controllable) from “God” things (stretch you into dependence). Follow only if His presence goes with you.
4. **Reproduce Jesus** – The Great Commission includes teaching others to obey (Matthew 28:19-20). What Jesus produces in you should flow through you to others (1 Corinthians 11:1). Success is measured by who is closer to Jesus because of your walk.

Reflection Questions

- Where am I treating Jesus like a content provider (picking what I want) rather than Lord?
- What is the “one thing” Jesus may be asking me to surrender right now?
- Am I busy with good activities or obedient to God-directed movement?
- Who is closer to Jesus because I have been following Him?
- What spiritual fruit (patience, love, forgiveness, etc.) is evident in my life recently?

Application

- Identify one area of conviction and obey it this week instead of walking away sorrowfully.
- Pray: “If You don’t go with me, I don’t want to go. If You’re in it, I’ll follow.”
- Choose one person to intentionally walk with—share life, model following Jesus, and help them take a next step.
- Daily check: Am I denying self in any area, or giving in?
- Measure productivity by fruit and movement toward others, not just knowledge or activity.

Group Discussion Prompts

1. Share a time you felt the tension between “subscribing” to a teaching and actually following it. What happened?
 2. What does “make Jesus Lord” look like practically when His request crosses a boundary you don’t want to surrender?
 3. How can we tell the difference between a “good” opportunity and a “God” assignment in everyday life?
 4. Who has helped you follow Jesus more closely? How can you do the same for someone else?
 5. End by praying together: “Jesus, I will follow You—whatever You ask me to surrender, wherever You ask me to go, whoever You ask me to reach.”
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