

YOU FOLLOW ME!

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prepared to accept the more rigorous demands of discipleship.

Many at certain times have been overwhelmed with the glamour and the glory of being a Christ follower. The challenge of gospel spreading has always been appealing. Strong motivating factors are there which cannot be denied—the heathen dying in fear and darkness, the shepherdless masses groveling in their sin and debauchery, the ever unfulfilled need for talented, trained, and wholly consecrated workers. Yes, but wait a moment. Have we yet come to grips with the more basic realities? Do we know what lies beneath the glamour and the glory?

Thomas à Kempis put it this way, "Jesus has many lovers of his kingdom, but few bearers of his Cross." Truer words were never uttered. The crux of the matter is here. For to follow Christ involves specific demands and disciplines which, under the most ideal conditions, cannot be pleasant. They are there and we cannot escape them.

I. IN HUMILITY

Is it not so that the most difficult thing in all the world is to humble oneself?

It was more by chance that when God declared his covenant with Solomon, II Chron. 7:14, that humility was the number one requirement. God said, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves..." As fundamental as are "prayer," "seeking my face," and "turning from our wicked ways," humility rightly precedes them. God refuses to show interest until he sees a humble heart.

Jesus led the way here. We cannot do less than to follow. St. Paul gave us dramatic insight into this truth in that great kenosis passage, Phil. 2:5-9. The step from the divine to the human—from God to man—was a humbling one. Finite minds shall never grasp the mystery of it. The best we can observe suggests that this was done at awful cost. But this was only the beginning. St. Paul continues, "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." What humility! The depths of humility were plumbed when Jesus became humanity's scapegoat. The total span of Jesus' life—from manger to cross—was a continuing story of humiliation. St. Paul set the pace for Christ's followers when he said, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."

Pride, humility's opposite, is the great enemy. Cut it in seven pieces, and each piece survives to haunt men further. When Satan runs out of things to make men proud about, he persuades them to be proud that they are humble (a most devilish kind of pride), or to be proud that they are not as other men, or even to be proud that they are orthodox. When God listed his most hated things "a proud look" topped the list (Prov. 6:17).

The Psalmist said, "God forgetteth not the cry of the humble." Is not this where we need help? A genuine humbling of ourselves before God—both pastor and people—would do more for us today as a denomination than any other one thing. Are we willing to do it? James said, "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." Let us follow Christ in humility!

II. IN LOVE

If one is humble, it is easy to love. A selfish or a proud person cannot love, for all affection has been directed to himself. Again, Jesus has shown us the way. Men approached Jesus without fear—the rich and the poor, the wise and the ignorant, children and invalids. How dared they approach him in such confidence? The answer lies in the fact that he loved them all. Jesus did not just tolerate men; he loved them, and they knew it.



Black's Harbor, N. B.

Wonderful! This is the term most frequently used in describing our recent revival with Miss Sheila Graham. The presence of the Lord is wonderful and the results of our revival are wonderful. Prayer meetings, Sunday Services, Sunday School all have new blood and new meaning. Praise the Lord.

Herbert McCrea helped in the music during part of our campaign, while local talent supplied the balance. Attendance and interest was excellent all through our four Sundays. Two Sunday afternoons Miss Graham preached at Deer Island and they were not without definite results.

Our people are greatly encouraged in the work and we all have felt the results of the rising spiritual tide. It was gratifying indeed to witness again an overflowing Sunday School and the timely exhortation — "come early and get a seat." Miss Graham is an excellent evangelist with nothing wanting for preaching "full salvation."

Before our revival our church engaged Joseph McDowell and his helpers from Grand Manan to put new walls and ceiling on our church. They were assisted by men from our own congregation. Since our revival we have renovated our church basement, making more and better accommodations for our Sunday School. Last summer our church and parsonage received outside paint.

We appreciate the faithful people here who have carried the church burden through the years. With new recruits we feel encouraged to press the battle for Christ and holiness. For all our blessings we give God all the glory.

Yours in Christian love,

A. D. and Mrs. Cann.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

It is important that all those having Rooms reserved at Beulah, confirm their reservations. Rooms are at a premium again this year and many are on the waiting list. If the Registrar is not contacted by June 30th., regarding a reservation, it will be taken for granted that the individual is not retaining his or her room. Address all correspondence to Rev. W. C. Burbury Box 371, Shelburne, Nova Scotia.

The thing that drove Jesus on mercilessly, to the grimest end, was a consuming love that knew no limits. He loved us all the way.

Can we love as Jesus loved? Or is that asking more than we can do? I believe not. God has given us of his love. This divine love is our strongest weapon. Men who cannot be won by love cannot be won at all. The great need today is a willingness on the part of Christ's followers to be consumed by such divine love.

St. Paul was consumed when he said, "For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren..." (Romans 9:3). Love that consumes men gets results!

Love is the key to all other Christian duties. If we love as we ought, the sacrifice of ourselves in service to God is not an issue; the tithe of our income is not an issue; the witness to our faith is not an issue; nor is any other matter an issue. For we have been possessed by love. We are not our own. We have been bought with a price.

If we are willing today to follow Christ in humility and in love, we shall find ourselves strong in the faith and bearing precious fruit unto eternal life.

The King's Highway