

Follow Me

CHARACTERS: Jesus (22), Narrator (13), Narrator 2 (12), Disciple (1), Elisha (2), Another disciple (1), Ruler (3), Scribe (1), Master (3), Peter (1)

Non-speaking (Andrew, James, John, Matthew)

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 4 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Matthew 4: 19-22, 8:18-22, 9:9, 10: 37-39, 11:28, 16:24-26, 19:16-22, 27-29; Mark 10:17- 22, Luke 9:23-25, 57-63, 14: 16-22; John 1:43, 6:35 & 37; Revelation 22:17, Philippians 3:13

JESUS: (*to audience*) Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

NARRATOR: A scribe approached Jesus and said,

SCRIBE: Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go!

JESUS: Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head. And whoever doesn't take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of Me.

DISCIPLE: Lord, first let me go bury my father.

JESUS: Follow Me, and Let the dead bury their own dead. The person who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; the person who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of Me. But you go and spread the news of the kingdom of God.

ANOTHER DISCIPLE: I will follow You, Lord, but first let me go and say good-bye to those at my house.

JESUS: No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.

NARRATOR 2: In the days of Elijah, the prophet found Elisha as he was plowing.

NARRATOR: Twelve teams of oxen were in front of him, and he was with the twelfth team.

NARRATOR 2: Elijah walked by him and threw his mantle over him.

JESUS: Elisha left the oxen and ran to follow Elijah.

ELISHA: I will follow you.

NARRATOR: Elisha took the team of oxen, and slaughtered them.

NARRATOR 2: With the oxen's wooden yoke and plow, he cooked the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate.

NARRATOR: How could he turn back?

NARRATOR 2: His livelihood was gone,

ELISHA: Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly call.

NARRATOR: Then Elisha left, followed Elijah, and served him.

JESUS: Anyone finding his life will lose it, and anyone losing his life because of me will find it.

NARRATOR: Large crowds gathered.

JESUS: (*to everyone including audience*) No one who comes to me will ever be hungry, and no one who believes in me will ever be thirsty again.

NARRATOR 2: Then Jesus told a parable.

JESUS: A man was giving a large banquet and invited many.

MASTER: It is the time of the banquet, go tell those who are invited.

SLAVE: (*to GUEST 1*) Come to the banquet, because everything is now ready.

GUEST 1: I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. I ask you to excuse me.

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GUEST 2: I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm going to try them out. I ask you to excuse me.

GUEST 3: I just got married, and therefore I'm unable to come.

SLAVE: Master, none of those invited will come. They gave one excuse after another.

MASTER: Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the city, and bring in here the poor, maimed, blind, and lame!

SLAVE: Master, what you ordered has been done, and there's still room.

MASTER: Go out into the highways and lanes and make them come in, so that my house may be filled.

JESUS: *(to audience)* No one who comes to me will ever be hungry, and no one who believes in me will ever be thirsty again.

JESUS: What is a man benefited if he gains the whole world, yet loses or forfeits himself?

NARRATOR: Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. He found Philip and told him

JESUS: Follow Me!

NARRATOR: As He was walking along the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew.

NARRATOR 2: They were casting a net into the sea, since they were fishermen.

JESUS: Follow Me, and I will make you fish for people!

NARRATOR 2: Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

NARRATOR: Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John.

NARRATOR 2: They were in a boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets

JESUS: Follow me!

NARRATOR 2: Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed Him.

NARRATOR: As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office.

JESUS: Follow Me!

NARRATOR: Matthew got up and followed Him.

JESUS: *(to audience)* Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

NARRATOR 2: Just then someone came up and asked Him,

RULER: Teacher, what good must I do to have eternal life?

JESUS: Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only One who is good. If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments."

RULER: Which ones?

JESUS: Do not murder; do not commit adultery; do not steal; do not bear false witness; honor your father and your mother; and love your neighbor as yourself.

RULER: Teacher, I have kept all these from my youth. What do I still lack?

NARRATOR: Then, looking at him, Jesus loved him and said

JESUS: You lack one thing. If you want to be perfect, go, sell your belongings and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.

NARRATOR 2: When the young man heard that command, he went away grieving, because he had many possessions.

JESUS: If anyone wants to come with me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me.

ALL: For whoever wants to save his life will lose it,

JESUS: but whoever loses his life because of me will find it.

NARRATOR 2: What will it benefit a man if he gains the whole world yet loses his life?

NARRATOR: Or what will a man give in exchange for his life?

PETER: Look, we have left everything and followed you. So what will there be for us?"

JESUS: I assure you: In the Messianic Age, when the Son of Man sits on His glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on 12 thrones, judging the 12 tribes of Israel.

(walking toward and speaking to audience) And everyone who has left houses, brothers or sisters, father or mother, children, or fields because of my name will receive 100 times more and will inherit eternal life.

(DISCIPLES on stage draw close to JESUS)

JESUS: *(to audience and all on stage)* Everyone the Father gives me will come to me, *(Placing arms around two closest DISCIPLES)* and the one who comes to me I will never cast out.