

Volume

7

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

**By Gbile Akanni, adapted by
Paul Jinadu**

...And Follow Me

Contents

Introduction.....5
Why must we follow Jesus?6
Discuss God’s purpose in asking us to follow Jesus7
Personal Assessment Questions8

Introduction

“And he said to them, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me” (Lk 9:23).

God has set the Lord Jesus Christ as a standard and pattern of life and service for everyone to take a cue from. So when He declared that if anyone will come after Him, he should deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Him, He meant we should follow His footsteps and pattern of life and service. It is a crucial part of the condition we must fulfill if we are to become His disciples

“...AND FOLLOW ME” (Lk 9:23)

(a) Why must we follow Jesus?

(i) We are lost (Rom 3:10-18,23; Prov 14:12; Eph 2:11,12). Sin has led us astray since the days of Adam. We are lost and have gone astray from the presence of God. Sin has blinded us so much that we do not know the way back to God. Jesus is the way back to God. He is all we need.

(ii) God has testified of Jesus and commanded us to follow Him (Mt 17:5; 1Pet 2:21; Heb 1:1-4).

Jesus is the express image of the invisible God. The image lost in Adam has been found in Jesus and we are commanded to follow in His footsteps if we are to find our way back into God's presence and regain the lost glory.

(b) Following Jesus is not something to be assumed: it involves action. It means to keep close to, to cleave steadfastly. That means we do nothing without Him. It also means no gap between us and Jesus. No gap in relationship, no hidden agenda, nothing between. It means being led by the Holy Spirit in everything.

Discussion Point

Discuss what could make this step of following Jesus a hard thing, both from Biblical examples and from your own experience. (Lk 9:24-26,57-62; Mt 10:21-23)

How can we overcome these?

Shame, desire to save one's life (future security) because of fear of future, possessions, children, father, mother, ambition, etc, are all the things that could hinder, delay, distract or terminate a man from following Jesus. It all depends on who or what has gained control over your life.

When you realize the high value of possessing Jesus and the excellency of His knowledge, all other things and people will be to you as refuse, as they were to Paul.

Who is that person, and what is that thing in your life that you know is capable of making it hard for you to follow Jesus? That person or thing must not overcome you, you must overcome him/it.

Discuss God's purpose in asking us to follow Jesus

(Rom 8:29; Heb 2:10,11; Matt 11:28; John 10:4,5,14)

It is for our good, not for evil.

It is not to make our life difficult but to make us co-heirs with Jesus.

God's intentions are for us to conform to the image of Christ. Since there are no two new creation men in heaven, we cannot live the old life (the natural life) and hope to inherit the Kingdom of God with Jesus Christ.

We can only be joint-heirs with Christ not just by faith confession but by faith action.

Personal Assessment Questions

1. *From this study we see that following Jesus is not passive. It is a definite action. In what ways would you honestly say you have been following Jesus?*
2. *(a) What personal conflicts and difficulties have you faced in your desire to follow Jesus?
(b) What are the hindrances?*
3. *Give a brief run-down of your 'following Jesus' in the past two years. Highlight specific points of definite experience of victories and failures. What lessons did you learn from such experiences?*