



MY NEXT STEP

Pastor Mitchel Mershaw - March 22, 2026

Common factors of those who followed Jesus in the bible:

1. They were In **THE MIDDLE...** of ordinary life.
2. They were **IMPERFECT...** people.
3. Required **SURRENDER...** leaving something behind.

On the road someone asked if he could go along. "I'll go with you, wherever," he said. Jesus was curt: "Are you ready to rough it? We're not staying in the best inns, you know." Jesus said to another, "Follow me." He said, "Certainly, but first excuse me for a couple of days, please. I have to make arrangements for my father's funeral." Jesus refused. "First things first. Your business is life, not death. And life is urgent: Announce God's kingdom!" Then another said, "I'm ready to follow you, Master, but first excuse me while I get things straightened out at home." Jesus said, "No procrastination. No backward looks. You can't put God's kingdom off till tomorrow. Seize the day." Luke 9:57-62

4. The invitation to follow was **RELATIONAL**.
5. The call to follow was about **TRANSFORMATION**.

Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. 'Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God. "Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people. Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes—these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God. "For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! Ephesians 5:1-4,8

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ' John 10:27

FOLLOWING requires MOVEMENT

Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people.' Luke 2:52



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5 Steps WHILE Following Jesus:

1st STAGE:

OBSERVING: (*Curious, watching, asking questions*)

STEP 1: The "PERSONAL DECISION" Step

STEP 2: The "GOING PUBLIC" Step

Communication Card (or)
TEXT LAKESHORE 9400

STEP 3: The "GROWING & MATURING" Step

But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.

James 1:22

STEP 4: The "ENDURANCE" Step

So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. '

Galatians 6:9

And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. '

Hebrews 12:1-2

STEP 5: The "MENTORING" Step

Timothy, my dear son, be strong through the grace that God gives you in Christ Jesus. You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others. '

2 Timothy 2:1-2

Notice the generations of faith:

Jesus ☒ Paul ☒ Timothy ☒ Churches in Philippi, Corinth & Ephesus ☒ others.

EARLY faith... asks:

"What is God doing... in MY life?"



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MATURE faith... asks:

"WHO is God having me, **pour** - My Life - into?"

The goal of "FOLLOWING JESUS"... is not "JUST" perseverance.
rather... It's **PERSERVERANCE...** that **PRODUCES LEGACY!**

As for me, my life has already been **poured out** as an **offering** to God. The time of my death is near. I have **fought the good fight**, I have finished the race, and I have **remained faithful**. And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for **all** who eagerly look forward to his appearing. '

2 Timothy 4:6-8

What is YOUR next step?