

Revival: A Call to Follow

Reflect

1. If you had to drive a long distance, would you rather follow someone else there or have your own set of directions?
2. How do you handle difficult circumstances when you pass through them?

Read Your Bible

- Proverbs 3:5-6
- Luke 9:21-26

Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. What strikes you from the Scripture readings?
2. How do you find yourself "leaning on your own understanding" instead of God's wisdom?
3. Have you ever been ashamed of Jesus and His words? Can you recall a specific time? Would you be willing to share?
4. What do you think it means to take up your cross daily?
5. How could you pray today for help in following Jesus?

Conclusion

Why is it so hard to follow Jesus? You would think it would be easy. We all follow various things in life. We learned from a young age the basics of 'Simon Says' or 'Follow the Leader.' If your life today depended on it, you could still copy just about any action, follow just about any command. But obedience to God calls for something we cannot guarantee: a willing heart. His simple command cuts at the core of our resistance, "lean not on your own understanding." He offers us a new heart, but then speaks very honestly: "You must deny yourselves and take up your cross." Take up a cross? Good heavens! Why? To be a good person? To get a good grade? To win others' approval? No, we deny the impulse to follow those old gods. He says, "You must...follow me." The choice is simple, yet the hardest thing ever. Will I follow Jesus?

Pray

Dear Lord Jesus, You are my joy and crown. You have the words of eternal life. But the way seems hard in the world. Fill me with Your strength to face it today. Teach me to deny myself whenever I begin to resist Your love. You are worth more than anything I could gain in this world. Remind me of Your provision. I will follow You. I have decided. In Your name. Amen.