



MAY 2

SIGNS

LISTEN AND FOLLOW

This weekend we continued our series, Signs, and saw Jesus heal a man at the Pool of Bethesda, the 3rd of John's signs marking Jesus' true identity. In that account, we saw that Jesus's top priority was to please his father by living a life of listening and following.

Before you jump into this study, take a moment to prepare your heart. Ask the Lord to meet you during this time. Notice anything that might be a distraction and, to the best of your ability, put it to the side.



READ

What does God's Word say about the role of models in our life?

This weekend we learned that Jesus lived His life after the model of God the Father. Read these New Testament passages and notice what they say about the models in our lives.

- 1 John 2:3-6
- Ephesians 4:17-5:1
- 1 Corinthians 4:14-17
- 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1



REFLECT

What do these passages show us about living a life that follows Jesus' model?

1. In 1 John 2:3-6, what does it say is a marker of those who are in Christ?
2. In Ephesians 4:24, who does it say the new self we're putting on is created to be like? In what way?
3. According to Ephesians 4:32, why should the Christ-follower be kind, compassionate and forgiving?
4. Rewrite Ephesians 5:1-2 in your own words.
5. In 1 Corinthians 4:14-17, Paul wrote that he is sending Timothy to remind the Corinthians about something specific. What is Timothy reminding them about, and why is it important?
6. In 1 Corinthians 11:1, Paul says to follow his example as he follows the example of Christ. Based on verse 10:33, what does it look like to "follow Christ's example?"



RESPOND

In light of these passages, how does God want me to respond?

1. Who is a model in your life in the following categories? The answer might be the same person, but often multiple people impact us in different areas of our life.

- Family
- Work
- Personality
- Lifestyle
- Goals
- Faith

2. *Jesus Models a Life of ... Listening and Following*, a life that is all about knowing the Father's will and carrying it out. As disciples of Jesus, as His followers, we are supposed to live the same way, listening to and following God's will for our life. Read the following quote from Dallas Willard's article *How Does the Disciple Live?*

How the disciple lives naturally comes out of who the disciple is.

As Jesus' disciple, I am his apprentice in kingdom living. I am learning from him how to lead my life in the Kingdom of the Heavens as he would lead my life if he were I. It is my faith in him that led me to become his disciple. My confidence in him simply means that I believe that he is right about everything: that all that he is and says shows what life is at its best, what it was intended by God to be. "In him was life and the life was the light of men." (John 1:4 NAS)

Being his apprentice is, therefore, not a matter of special "religious" activities, but an orientation and quality of my entire existence. This is what is meant by Jesus when he says that those who do not forsake all cannot be his disciple. (Luke 14:26 & 33) The emphasis is upon the all. There must be nothing held of greater value than Jesus and his kingdom. He must be clearly seen as the most important thing in human life, and being his apprentice as the greatest opportunity any human being ever has.

The entire article can be found at <https://dwillard.org/articles/how-does-the-disciple-live>

- What is your initial takeaway from this quote?
- Write out this part of the quote in your own words. "Being his apprentice is ... not a matter of special 'religious' activities, but an orientation and quality of my entire existence?"
- Dallas writes, "*I am learning from him how to lead my life in the Kingdom of the Heavens as he would lead my life if he were I.*" What would your life look like if Jesus was in full control of your day-to-day?

3. At the end of the message Michael asked, *What ... is Your Top Passion?* How would you answer this question?

4. Michael also asked, *To Whom ... Are You Listening and Following?* How would you answer that question?

5. Paul makes it very clear that his first readers were to look to him as an additional model to follow. Why do you think it's also important to have other Christ-followers to model after?

6. Take five minutes and ask God what steps of growth He might have for you in this area. As you do, think through the following:

- What would look different in my life if I lived like Jesus?
- What area of my life am I afraid to surrender to His way of living?
- Who am I listening to and following?
- Who are the loudest voices in my life?
- Who in my life models well what it looks like to follow Christ?
- Who does God want me to model my life after?
- What changes do I need to make to live like my “entire existence” is about following Jesus?