What Does Following Jesus Look Like?

Acts 1: 1-5 Read --- This is what following Jesus looked like after the resurrection. What about before? Let's see what the follows of Jesus looked like before the Resurrection, before the crucifixion, before the miracles, even before the Sermon on the Mount, etc....

1. Following Jesus means that Jesus has invited you to be a part of His ministry of Kingdom Creation!

Matthew 4: 17-25

Jesus said ... John 1: 37-38 "And the two disciples heard him speak, <u>and they followed</u> Jesus. Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, where dwellest thou? He saith unto them, <u>Come and see</u>. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour. John 1:43 "The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me — IT IS AN EXPERIENCE DAY BY DAY! (**COME AND SEE!**)

- 2. Following Jesus meant that you were one of His followers and this Man really knows my name.
- 3. Following Jesus meant that you will be simply amazed at times, and you will see amazing and unexplainable things happen.

Cripples healed, blind healed, etc. ... Matthew 14 and 5000 men with a few loaves and a few fish. A young girl was brought back from the darkness of death, etc. ... even do things that cannot be done without God doing it with you and through you, such as Water Walking, etc.

- **4.** Followers of Jesus will hear some incredible things ... and you will not always grasp them but you will accept them and later you will understand them
 - ..."Love your enemies"
 - ... do good to them
 - ... let them have your cloak also

- ... If any man come after me, let him hate his father and mother, wife, etc.
- ... unless you are willing to eat my body and drink my blood you cannot be mine

... etc.

5. Following Jesus means that you will be sent into the storm sometimes ... SOMETIMES

He is in the boat with you, asleep and sometimes you think He has forsaken you and He is not even along but you look up and here He comes! And during those storm times is when you seem to grow the most, especially when you think He has forsaken you but you do not run ... you just by faith draw near to Him...

6. Following Jesus meant that we would be sent into places of danger and even death.

Matthew 10: 16 "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves

... they will deliver you to the council, they will scourge you ... but when they deliver you, take no thought what you will say, the Spirit will speak for you.

Brother will deliver brother ... parent the child, children will deliver the parents, and you shall be hated of all men for My Name sake ... but he that shall endure to the end, shall be saved. Therefore, following Jesus sometimes will hurt!

7. Following Jesus would mean being embarrassed at times:

Matthew 8 The centurion's servant, sick of palsy ... vs 10 "...I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no not in Israel."

John 13: 38 "...Verily Verily I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice."

And even of the sword ... Peter, I don't need you...

The event of when the cock crowed and Jesus looked straight at Peter

Or the words spoken by the angels to Mary Magdalene in Mark 16: 7 "...go tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee."

And even Mother Mary in her teen years being called on to bear the Child and the shame of it, and Joseph is called to do the same.

8. Following Jesus means that you are true follower and not a fan.

Many who were so-called followers went missing when He said something they did not like or did not understand.

Many of the so-called followers went missing when Jesus stopped helping them or feeding them but began expecting them to take some ownership of the Kingdom on earth and serve rather than be served as He told some that they only followed him to experience a miracle, etc.

Many of the so-called followers were missing when the arrest took place, when Jesus was being ridiculed and beaten, when it wasn't popular to be associated with Him, when Jesus was traveling that long road to the Skull.

The parade was over, the Hosanna time was over, the moments of miracles were halted for a time and Jesus was talking about dying on a cross and even now was saying that not only was He going to die on one but was expecting His followers to be willing to do so for him and with him...

John 16: 1 "These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. Vs 2, Vs 3 Verse 4... vs 6 "But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart... Nevertheless, I tell you the truth....Vs 33 "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace, In the world ye shall have tribulation but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Following Jesus does not mean that you will not have mountains to climb, rivers to cross, storms to pray through, but it does mean that you will never climb alone, you will never cross alone, you will never swim alone, you will never be alone!!!

Are you a follower of Jesus or are you a fan that changes teams when the circumstances change?

Think of an event, a time when you have displayed that you are a true follower of Jesus?