

# Take up the *cross*...and Follow Me

Day Star Publications

April 24, 2009

Jesus saw a man named Matthew, a publican, sitting at the receipt of custom. Jesus said unto him, "*Follow me*" (MATTHEW 9:9; MARK 2:14; LUKE 5:27-32). And Luke recorded that "...*he LEFT ALL, rose up, and followed him.*"

The word "follow" means "*a road,*" to "*be in the same way with, i.e. to accompany.*" The words "left all" means "*to leave behind; to abandon.*"

Are you in the 'SAME WAY' with Jesus? Are you on the same road? Did you 'LEAVE ALL BEHIND' when you followed Jesus? Remember, "*strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it*" (MATT. 7:14).

A rich man came to Jesus and asked him, "Good Master, what good thing shall I **DO**, that I may inherit eternal life?" People are still wanting to "**DO**" something to go to heaven (MATT 19:16; MARK 10:17; LUKE 18:18).

Jesus told him just what to do to **inherit eternal life**:

1. **Go and sell** all that thou hast
2. **Distribute** to the poor
3. **Come**
4. **Take up the cross & follow me**

This was to "prove" the man's sincerity concerning eternal life. Anyone can "**DO**" something, but "...*if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me*" (MATTHEW 16:24). To follow Jesus involves much more than *religious* efforts.

Jesus said, "*If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be*" (JOHN 12:26). We are not our own, but bought with a price.

A "servant" means "*to run on errands; an attendant; a waiter at a table or other menial duties.*" Are you a **servant** of Christ? King David once said, "*I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness*" (PSA. 84:10). How about you?

The invisible things of God are clearly seen by the things He has made, like these ducklings. They are in the "same way" with their mother. To



follow Jesus is to be in the **same way with him** by keeping our eyes upon him. There are many "ways" in the world, but only **ONE** way leads to eternal life.

God said, "*There is a way that seemeth right unto a man*" (PROVERBS 16:25), and Jesus said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life: NO MAN cometh unto the Father, BUT BY ME*" (JOHN 14:6).

Examine yourself, and make sure these words do not implicate you: "*Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! For so did their fathers to the false prophets*" (LUKE 6:26). The world didn't speak well of Jesus, and if *you* are a follower of Jesus Christ, **they won't speak well of you either.**

If you choose to follow Jesus, remember, "*if the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.*" Persecution comes with following Jesus because we are not of this world. *If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also*" (JOHN 15:18-20). It is very clear that all believers will suffer. You can choose to travel the "*smooth road*" (ISAIAH 30:10-15) or follow Jesus.



"Yea, and all that will live **godly IN Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.**"

2 TIMOTHY 3:12

**No Exceptions**