

SERMON OUTLINE

FOLLOWING JESUS #11

THE CHRIST WHO CALLS US TO FOLLOW

LUKE 9:1-27 | REV. LITO VILLORIA

Following Jesus is not about proximity but response. Many hear, observe, and even admire Christ, yet fail to follow Him fully. Luke 9 moves us from seeing what Jesus does to understanding who He is and what He demands. Discipleship is not partial—it is a decisive, daily surrender to the Christ.

Luke 9 revealed a clear progression in Christ's ministry and His call to discipleship. First, Christ shared His mission with His disciples. He gave them authority and sent them out, showing that following Him involves participation in His work. Yet their mission is marked by dependence, not self-sufficiency. What they lacked, He provided. (Luke 9:1-6,10-17)

Second, Christ confronted the

question of His identity. Many opinions circulated, but clarity was absent. Jesus pressed His disciples: "Who do you say that I am?" Peter confessed, "The Christ of God." True discipleship begins with a right understanding of who Jesus is. Without this, commitment will not stand. (Luke 9:7-9,18-20)

Third, Christ defined the nature of His mission. The Son of Man must suffer, be rejected, be killed, and be raised. This reveals that His mission is shaped by God's plan, not human expectation. The path to glory was through suffering. (Luke 9:21-22)

Finally, Christ called believers to follow Him with full surrender. To follow Him is to deny self, take up the cross daily, and continue following Him. This is not self-improvement but self-rejection—

transferring authority from self to Christ. The call is daily and comprehensive. (Luke 9:23-27)

Jesus explained what is at stake. To preserve one's life is to lose it; to gain the world yet lose oneself is total loss; to reject Christ is to be rejected by Him. God's kingdom is real, and the call is urgent. Discipleship determines one's ultimate standing before God.

The Christ who calls us to follow Him is the sovereign Savior who revealed His identity, defined His mission, and demands full surrender. This sermon calls believers to respond rightly—by denying self, embracing the cross, and following Christ daily, knowing that true life is found only in complete surrender to Him.✠

GOD'S TRUTH MUST BE PRACTICED

REV. LITO VILLORIA

You're driving. You open Waze or Google Maps. The route is clear. The instructions are precise. "Turn left." "Go straight." "Exit right." But what if the map is right—and the driver ignores it? The problem is not the direction. The problem is the response.

This is the issue Jesus addressed in Matthew 23:2-3: "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, so do and observe whatever they tell you—but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice."

These leaders were entrusted with teaching God's Word. They explained the Law. They instructed the people. Their message, at many points, was accurate. But their lives were not aligned with what they taught.

And Jesus exposed the danger. He told the people to "do and observe whatever they tell you," affirming that truth must be obeyed when it is rightly taught. But He added a clear warning: "not the works they do." Why? Because "they preach, but do not practice."

The issue was not the content of the message. The issue was the disconnect in the life. This is not only a leadership problem. It is a heart problem. Because the issue is not lack of knowledge—it is lack of obedience.

We live in a time where truth is accessible. We hear sermons. We

read Scripture. We attend Bible studies. We know what God says. But the real question is not what we know. The real question is this: Are we doing what we already know?

Jesus draws a clear distinction. First, truth must still be obeyed—even if the one teaching it fails to live it out. God's Word remains authoritative because it comes from Him, not from the person delivering it. Second, the life of the one teaching must not be followed if it contradicts the truth.

This applies to all of us. Because whether we realize it or not, we all influence someone. In our homes, in our ministries, and in our relationships—people hear what we say, but they also watch how we live.

A life that speaks truth but does not practice it creates confusion. But a life that practices truth brings clarity. This is why Jesus' words are direct and necessary:

"Do and observe." That is decisive and continuous obedience. "Not the works they do." That is a warning against contradiction. "They preach, but do not practice." That is the pattern we must guard against.

The call is clear: God's servants must practice the truth they proclaim. This is not about perfection—it is about alignment. It is about living under the same truth we speak. Clear direction is

PARSON TO PERSON

only helpful when it is followed.

Elevator for Our Beloved Senior Citizens

We often say that we love our senior citizens—and rightly so. They are pillars of our church family. They have served faithfully, prayed consistently, and helped shape who we are today. Now we have an opportunity to express that love in a tangible way.

Our church leadership is actively pursuing a project to provide an elevator that will better serve our senior citizens and make our gatherings more accessible for them. The estimated cost of this project is P1.8 million to P2.0 million. This is not just a facility improvement—it is a way of honoring those who have faithfully walked ahead of us.

We would like to give everyone the opportunity to participate—whether young or old. If the Lord leads you to contribute any amount over and above your regular giving—P100, P1,000, P100,000, or any amount—it will surely be appreciated by our senior citizens and honoring to the Lord. Kindly indicate that your offering is for the Elevator Project.

As the Scripture says, "And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19), it is my prayer that God will bless you immeasurably in return as you give cheerfully and generously!✠

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