

Why do We Follow Jesus?

John 6:60-71
Pastor Jeff Burkholder
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How do we walk closely with Jesus for a lifetime?

A. We don't follow Jesus for self-serving reasons. (verses 60-66)

“Their reaction is typical of false disciples: as long as they perceived Jesus to be a source of healing, free food, and deliverance from enemy oppression, the self-serving disciples flocked to Him. But when He demanded that they acknowledge their spiritual bankruptcy, confess their sin, and commit themselves to Him as the only source of salvation, throughout the history of the church, they followed Jesus for what they thought they could get from Him. True disciples, on the other hand, come to Christ poor in spirit (Matt. 5:3), mourning over their sin (5:4), and hungering and thirsting for the righteousness that only He can supply (5:6).”

~The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: John 1-11
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“False disciples do not follow Christ because of who He is, but because of what they want from Him. They have no problem viewing Him as a baby in the manger at Christmas; a social reformer with a broad message of love and tolerance; the ideal human everyone should emulate; or a source of health, wealth, and worldly happiness. But they are unwilling to embrace the biblical Jesus-the God-man who fearlessly rebuked sinners and warned them of eternal hell, and that salvation from that hell comes only through believing His words.”

~The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: John 1-11 by John MacArthur,
Copyright ©2006 Moody Publishers, p. 169-170.

- B. We need to have a clear picture of the alternatives.
(verses 67-68)**

- C. We need to be confident that Jesus is the “Holy One of God.” (verses 67-69)**

“The motive behind Jesus’ harsh words is not difficult to see—he wanted people to count the cost of following him (Luke 14:25-33)...Those who follow Jesus in hopes of feeling good always will be disappointed sooner or later. Only those who find in Jesus the rock-solid truth will be able to weather the difficulties of living in this fallen world. If our central motive for following Jesus isn’t because he is *the Truth*, we too will be disappointed.”

~Life Application Bible Commentary: John by Bruce Barton, et al.
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