

“Followers or Spectators?”

Matthew 8:18-22

Pastor Art Hunt

July 16-17, 2016

Take-Home Truth: **You will follow Jesus when your heart’s desire is to put Him first.**

**FOLLOWING JESUS ALWAYS INCLUDES THE WILLINGNESS TO LET GO OF
COMFORT AND SECURITY.**

Now when Jesus saw a crowd around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. ¹⁹And a scribe came up and said to him, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.”²⁰And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” Matthew 8:18-20 (English Standard Version)

FOLLOWING JESUS REQUIRES A DESIRE TO PUT HIM FIRST.

Another of the disciples said to him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father."²² And Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead." Matthew 8:21-22 (ESV)

"If being a Christian is merely a matter of superficial religion, then no amount of persuasion will convince us that we need to step out of our comfort zones, alter our priorities, sacrifice our possessions, risk our reputations, and potentially even lose our lives to share Christ with others. We have every reason to sit back in a privatized faith that works well and doesn't impose upon the people around us (much less around the world). A superficial approach to Christianity always results in a spectator mentality in the church." From David Platt's, *Follow Me*

APPLICATION for those *not* following: Ask, "How can I fuel my affections for God?"

- Worship? • Bible? • Giving? • Spirit-renewal?
- Entering a season of discipleship?

APPLICATION for those who *are* following: Ask, "What current sacrifice or risk is God inviting me to take?"

- Financial? • Service to God's people? • Becoming a witness?
- Disciple-making?