

I Have Decided...To FOLLOW Jesus!

Pastor Mike Servello

-Mark 16:15...” You are to go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere.”(LB)

-Matt.28:19-20...” Therefore **go** and **make disciples** in all the nations...then **teach these new disciples to obey all the commands** I have given you; and be sure of this—that I am with you always, **even to the end of the world.**”

***New LIFE---New DIRECTION---New WAYS**

1)New LIFE—Meeting & KNOWING

Jesus Personally -Hosea 6:6 (MSG) -Matt.11:28 (MSG)

“The revelation of God in Jesus Christ is something very different from religion. Religion has many critics, but Jesus has very few.” (Dallas Willard)

***Religion Focuses On Rules---Jesus Offers**

Relationship -I Corinthians 1:9 (Voice) -John 6:44 (AMP)

-Draw(Gk).... ”To move someone from one area to another in a pulling motion, draw, with the idea that the person being moved is incapable of propelling itself or is unwilling

***Jesus Draws With Indescribable GRACE & LOVE** -Ephesians 2:1-5 -Revelation 1:5

***Meeting Jesus Changes All...YOU Must Be BORN AGAIN!**

-John 3:3 -Collosians1:13 -Ezekiel 36:26 (ISV)

-A NEW LIFE Has Begun! CONVERSION

-II Corinthinas 5:16-17 (Easy)

2)New LIFE Needs A New DIRECTION

-Jesus Calls Us To FOLLOW A New Path As His Disciples -Luke 5:27 (AMP)

a)Following is a *PERSONAL CHOICE* & Requires Full Commitment

-Luke 9:23 (AMP) -Proverbs 3:5-6

b)One of our 1st STEPS...Lord ADDS Us to a Local Church!

-“No one can have God as Father who does not have the Church as Mother.” (Cyprian 200 AD).

***Many Don't Understand What “Church” Is---God's Purpose**

-Matt.16:18

-Church...”Ekkelsia...Called Out Ones”

"For a Christian to be a Christian, he must first be a sinner. **Being a sinner is a prerequisite for being a church member. The Christian church is one of the few organizations in the world that*

requires a public acknowledgement of sin as a condition for membership.” (R.C. Sproul)

c)LC Is A Place of Fellowship—New “Kingdom” COMMUNITY

-Psalms 68:6 (EASY) -Acts 2:47 (AMP)

d)God’s Adds & Blends People Together We Never Would

-"The church is a place where the rich and the poor meet together, where the learned and the unlearned sit side by side, where earthly distinctions are forgotten at the foot of the cross. Grace makes brethren of those whom society has separated."(Spurgeon)

-Acts 2:46

-WAKE UP! -We Need An Awakening—Revelation of the House of God!

-Genesis 28:16

**Martin Luther..." Apart from the church, salvation is impossible. Not that the church provides salvation, but the saved one can't fulfill what it means to be a Christian apart from the church."*

-Romans 12:5 (Voice)

3)As We Follow We Learn New WAYS & Are TRANSFORMED

a)Following Faithfully Changes EVERYTHING! -Isaiah 55:8-9

b) Following Is About OBEDIENCE That Flows From LOVE -1 John 2:3

*- “In practice, the more a man learns to obey God’s laws the more truly & fully does he express his love for him. **Obedience is the test of whether we really live “in God” or not.**” (JB Philipps)*

-The Way God “SPEAKS” Is Totally Different From Anything You’ve Ever Heard!

**-John 10:27 (Voice) -Isaiah 30:21 (NL) -John 13:34-35 (Voice)
-Colossians 3:13 (NLV) -Mark 4:24 (LB)**

-“You will know as much of God, and only as much of God, as you are willing to put into practice.” (Eric Liddell)

***As We Follow & Obey, We’re TRANSFORMED -Romans 12:2 (EASY)**

-Metamorphosis... ”Transformed by God’s power into a new way of being, a deep and radical change of character that more and more reflects Jesus in heart, mind, and actions.”

-Ephesians 2:10 For we God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. (*NLT*)