**Wannabe Followers**

Matthew 8:18-22

May 4, 2025

**Introduction**

 W-a-n-n-a-b-e is not a word in some foreign language like American Indian, Japanese …

 Wannabe =

1. a person who wants or aspires to be someone or something else or tries to look

or act like someone else

 2. something such as a product, company or city intended to rival another of its

kind that has been successful, often times they fail

 e.g. Ivy Leage colleges are what many colleges want to be, but fall short

 e.g. tools Milwaukee is the standard, Craftsman and Bauer use similar color scheme

 e.g. Elvis Rock and Roll King, countless imitators

 Matthew 8:18-34 discusses three groups of followers of Jesus, I would have like to deal w all

 But too long, so 3 messages…

Next Week - 8:23-27 calledtobe followers of Jesus

Two Weeks from Today - 8:28-34 refusetobe followers of Jesus

Today - 8:18-22 wannabe followers of Jesus, they say they want to follow Jesus but…

**I. Why Would Anyone Want To Be A Follower of Jesus Christ?**

 A. Heard and liked what Jesus says/said i.e. the Sermon on the Mount Mt 5-7

 Blessings of the beatitudes Mt 5:3-10

 Lofty standards of living Mt 7:12 Mt5:21-43

 Simple and honest teaching of genuine religion without hypocrisy Mt6:1-18

 Difference between Jesus and other religious teachers 7:28

 The promise of the Kingdom of Heaven, clear and truthful, helpful 6:19-7:5

 Personal talk of God - Father

 B. Saw/believed the miraculous things He had done

Willing to reach out and touch a leper and cleanse him 8:1-4

Only having to speak a word to heal the Centurion’s servant 8:5-13

Miraculous healing of Peter’s mother-in-law 8:14-15

Casting out demons and many other healings 8:16-17

 C. Large crowds that followed Jesus – Jesus was popular

 Great multitudes 4:25

 Multitudes 5:1

 Many and healed all 8:16

 Better question, Why wouldn’t anyone want to be a follower of Jesus Christ?

 Two wannabe followers of Jesus…

**II. Wannabe Followers Learn Following Jesus Does Not Mean A Comfortable Life 18-20**

 A. Parallel account only in Lk 9:57-62

 Luke account uses 140 words, Matthew uses 98 words

 Main difference is Luke has text associated with one more wannabe follower

 B. Jesus wants to get away from the crowd 18

 The miraculous side of Jesus ministry attracted many people

 Jesus does not want the focus of His ministry to be the miraculous J2:23-25

 The miraculous should authenticate His ministry

 Go to the other side – from Capernaum 8:5 to Gergesa/Gadara 8:28

 C. wannabe scribe 19

 A certain scribe [literally ‘one scribe’]

 Scholars and authorities of the Law – Jewish legal proceedings

 Later challenge JS on disobedience to traditional practices Mk2:16 Mt1:2

 Jesus will call them out for hypocrisy in Mt 23:13,15 …

 But this one at this time says: Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go

 This scribe addresses Jesus as Teacher – respect, but sees following as

volunteering to follow a Rabbi

 That a ‘scribe’ volunteered to ff JS – scribe sort of a celebrity

 This scribe says he will follow JS wherever He goes – sounds committed

 He is an academic disciple, but ff JS requires commitment

 Does ‘wherever’, mean wherever???

 D. Jesus’ answer 20

 Foxes have holes – called a den, Birds have nests , some where evers JS goes

 The Son of Man has nowhere 2lay His head, this is 1of the easier ‘costs’ of ff JS

 Son of Man – most common way Jesus referred to Himself, fm Dn7:13-14

 31X’s in Matthew, this is the first

 Son of God – Dn3:25, 8X’s in Matthew 4:3, 8:29, 27:54

 Nowhere to lay His head – no home/bed/pillowcomfortable academic life

 ‘wherever’ means no to some things he expected, JS gets at the issue

 Jesus does not sugar coat the cost of ff Him, J1621, 2Ti312, Hb1135-38,Mt1624

 Lenski illus: ‘one sees th soldier on parad, the fine uniforms…forgets the bloody battles’

 Lesson – Following Jesus will not be a life of comfort and ease. No special treatment for

a honored academic celebrity as a follower of JS, demands to follow JS are high

church is a volunteer organization, but ff JS cannot be based on volunteering, wherevers!

don’t follow Jesus because the crowd follows, follow because committed to Him

**III. Wannabe Followers Learn Following Jesus Does Not Mean ‘me first’ 21-22**

 A. Wannabe disciple 21

 Another of His disciples

 Not in the later sense of the committed 12 J13:35/Mt28:18-20

 Here just used of a would-be follower

 Lord, let me first go and bury my father

 Lord – proper address of Jesus

 Let me first – here is the problem, something to do first, about me, excuse

 Go and bury my father – this would be reasonable if ones father just died

 But there is no indication that the father had just died

 Putting off following Jesus until convenient for one self

 Indefinite postponement until convenient

 Expression meaning stay at home and fulfill fam responsib until…

 i.e. he would lose his inheritance if he left now

 Reminds us of the rich young ruler concern with money Mt19:16-22

 B. Jesus’ Lesson 22

 Follow Me

 Today is the of salvation

 Today is the day to begin to follow Jesus

 Following Jesus means: going where He goes/wants you to go

 Doing what He does/wants U to do

 Saying what He says/wants U to say

 Getting in step with Him

 Getting behind Him, Jesus first

 Commitment to Jesus, sincerity, without reservation

 And let the dead bury their own dead, spiritually dead bury the physically dead

 Following JS takes precedence over even family matters Nb6:6-7 Lv21:11

 No excuses, don’t dictate terms to Jesus about following Him , put JS first

 Lesson – following Jesus is a matter of total commitment

 Jesus is not just after followers, but followers who become committed disciples

 and will make disciples of others Mt 28:18-20

if you have higher priorities of comfort, economic etc. U are missing the pt of Jesus call

to discipleship, Jesus first