**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