**Follow me**

**(Luke 18:18-22; Matthew 16:24; Matthew 4:18-20)**

**Yearly Theme: *“Love Does…”***

**Series Title: *Love Does***

**October 27th, 2019**

***Something to think about:***

What does “Follow me” mean to you? What does it mean to truly follow Christ? What is holding you back? We all have something that keeps us from truly following God, it may be one thing, or it might be many. But God is calling us to be followers and what is our answer.

Our focus today will be Luke 18:18-22. We see here in this section of Luke that Luke is trying to piece together a picture of what it looks like to follow Christ. He uses several of the parables spoken by Jesus to paint a picture of what a follower of Christ is to look like. Mixed in with a couple parables are a couple examples of interactions that Christ had with people who wanted to follow Him.

Let’s pick up the story…

**Turn in your Bibles to: *Luke 18:18-22; Matthew 4:18-20; Matthew 16:24;***

God is calling us to give up control of the plans we are holding on to! God wants us to follow him but not just with lip service, and not just with outward actions, like following the rules. He wants us to give Him control. To follow God is to live a life that is humble before Him and is modeled after His actions.

The point today is this…

**Key Point: *“Our love for God requires us to let go of our “if-onlys” in order to follow God’s “what-ifs.”***

So what do we learn about following God from these passages?

1. **God wants control of your life.**
2. **If we are going to call ourselves followers of Christ (Christian), we must be willing to model our lives after Christ.**
3. **God is Love, we are meant to be like Christ, therefore we must become love.**

***Something to take home:***

The Bible tells us that to live like Christ will make us stand out. Specifically, it says that our love will make us stand out. Living a life that looks like Christ, a life that Does Love well, is really hard. It can also be really scary and at times feel impossible but here is the cool thing: the more we give up control and follow Christ, the more we empty ourselves of ourselves and allow him to fill us, the easier it becomes.

***Matthew 11:28-30 (NLT)***

***28 Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.”***

For your homework assignment this week: Give up control at some point this week and come to Christ like a child; listen to what he has to say. If you listen to what he is asking you to give up in that moment, maybe it’s money, maybe it’s comfort, or a desire, or a habit. Whatever it is, be willing to give it up and pick up your cross and follow Christ. You are filled with the Holy Spirit: allow him to lead this week.