

Am I ready to follow Jesus?  
John 13:33-38

John 13:33-38 (NIV)

"My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later." Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!"

Three Questions to Answer:

I. Am I ready for major changes?

Matthew 4:18-22 (NIV)

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Henry Blackaby, Experiencing God

If you want to be a follower of Jesus, you have no choice. You will have to make major adjustments in your life to follow God. Until you are ready to make any adjustment necessary to follow and obey what God has said, you will be of little use to God.

2 Corinthians 8:9 (NIV)

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.



II. Am I ready to count the costs?

Luke 14:25-33 (NIV)

Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters — yes, even his own life — he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' ... In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.

Charles Stanley, *Confronting Casual Christianity*

"Every day you live outside the authority of Jesus Christ failing to follow His good and perfect will, you are storing up regret and remorse which will bear agony and misery now and later."



### III. Am I ready for rich reward?

- God's Presence
- God's Plan

Psalm 40:5

Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders you have done. The things you planned for us no one can recount to you; were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare.

- God's Power

David Platt

We've forgotten that following Jesus isn't like choosing which flavor of syrup you want in your coffee.  
The call to follow Jesus is a call to forsake everyone and everything other than Him.  
It's a call to a radical abandonment.