**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. July 2, 2023**

**So, You Want To Follow Jesus?**

Matthew 8:18-27

**Key Truth:** Jesus Christ is not looking for fame nor a following; but for followers who will commit and dedicate their lives to His Kingdom Authority.

**Following Jesus Comes At A Great Cost:**

1. Jesus is never impressed by the crowd. Matthew 8:18,

 Luke 14:25-27

2. Following Jesus isn’t comfortable! Matthew 8:20

 A. The scribe was looking for an internship, not

 Lordship from Jesus.

3. Following Jesus isn’t convenient! Matthew 8:22

 A. The disciple wanted to delay following Jesus until

 everything was right in His life.

**Jesus Demands Our Allegiance Because He Is God:**

1. The disciples learned a hard lesson on faith in Jesus.

 A. If Jesus leads you to it, He will get you through it!

2. Jesus calms the storms to demonstrate He is God!

 Matthew 8:27

 A. All creation must bow to the authority of Jesus!

**What We Learn:**

1. Don’t follow Jesus based off emotionalism or

 excitement from the crowd.

2. Following Jesus must take priority over every

 relationship in our life.

3. Following Jesus demands that we trust Him, no matter

 the circumstances we face.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Believe that Jesus has a greater purpose for your life than you could ever imagine.

**Food For Thought:**

What’s one of the biggest decisions you’ve ever had to make in life?

Once you committed to a decision, what are some things that you were afraid of? What difficulties did you have to face?

Read Luke 14:25-30: How are these verses similar to what Jesus said in John 12:20-26?

What stands out to you as different?

Are we really supposed to hate our families if we are Jesus’ disciples?

Why do you think that Jesus cautions us to ‘count the cost’? What are the costs we will pay to be His disciples?

If salvation is free, why does Jesus talk to us about what it will cost us?

Have you counted the cost in following Jesus?