

## **November non singing return**

7<sup>th</sup> November

### **Wk 1 – Connecting**

#### **Week 1 connecting here and now.**

*One thing that Christians say that they do is that we "Follow Jesus". From the gospels, particularly the book of John we see that Following is where it is at.*

*This year has been a year of sitting not thinking about what is ahead and or trying to work out where God wants us to be going. And that is for us corporately and also as individuals.*

*We have done the be still thing, which I believe God called us to and now We need to do that visioning and direction setting from the base of Following Jesus.*

*Following a Jesus, for the Christian, is the primary task.*

*Being connected to Jesus. Following is actively trying to connect to Jesus and what He has for us.*

*Yep and we have templates in scripture to do just that. Let's look at a few verses.*

**He told His disciples to do a simple task; - that is to follow.**

**John 1:43**

***<sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."***

*Jesus is saying – connect with me. Philip was called by Jesus.*

*It is not a "you come with me and you will lead and be an apostle" it's not for us "come with me and be successful or whatever" – it is a follow me.*

*That is the same for the lot of us. We are called primarily to follow. To be close enough to Jesus to stay connected.*

*He explained the principle that includes us- we are to follow, we are to connect.*

*John 10:27*

*<sup>27</sup> My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.*

*If we call ourselves Christians, then we are followers of Jesus, simple as that.*

*Here it is specific. You're a Christian, you listen to Jesus and you follow.*

*How do we listen? We stay connected by bible reading, prayer, gathering together.*

*He explained the process- following by serving- serving is a connection response.*

- *John 12:26*

*<sup>26</sup> Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.*

*Here Jesus spells it out. If your in, you follow. You WILL be a servant of Jesus. Its not just future life insurance, there is a lifestyle cost. That cost is servant hood. Connected not just to Jesus but his mission. There is a fancy term in Latin which makes it sound all flash and important, it is missio dei. It means the mission of God. We are called by God to participate in His mission, to do so – we stay connected by serving, doing his will.*

*He explained it aint easy- following takes effort- staying connected takes effort.*

*Luke 18:22*

***22 When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."***

*Here we see a simple interaction between Jesus and someone wanting to know the ins and outs of the Jesus religion. Notice, its all or nothing. Give up your stuff, then you can be with me. Jesus wants us, He wants our attention,, our reliance, our direction. Be connected, truly connected to Jesus.*

***He explained it was and it is personal- a personal verb – we do it.***

***John 21:22***

***22 Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me.***

*In this verse we look at the context and that is that Peter is checking out with Jesus about one of the other disciples. Jesus turns that around and basically says – His relationship to me is not your worry – you focus on following me.*

*That's where we need to be at. Focusing on following Jesus and staying connected to Jesus.*

*Us as individuals first and foremost. But also us as a church – A bunch of people, following and connecting Jesus. We need to be connected in the post pandemic world, primarily to Jesus but together we serve, we support and help in each other's journey.*