

No One Ever Spoke Like He Did

Series: Why Would You Follow That Man?

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Too many voices scream out “Follow Me” on Facebook. Hit like, subscribe, get a notification. We can literally fill our lives up with sites, pages, and causes, many worthy of our attention. As far as I know Jesus does not have a Facebook Page or a Profile. I have never found Him on LinkedIn or Twitter. I don’t think He has a YouTube channel either. But, I hear His voice loud and clear above the crowd saying in that all-familiar way, “Follow Me.” So many others over the years have had the same message. Moses, Socrates, Mohammed, Caesar, Popes, Kings, dictators, and political leaders of all stripes. Vote for me. Choose me. Listen to me. Some add “or else.” Above the din and the roar one voice rises clearly above all others and invites us to “Follow Me.” We get to decide whose disciple we will be. Who will we study? Who will we imitate? Who will we seek to be like? Who will we obey? Who you choose will set the course for your life. You will have to live with your decision. You will determine your destiny by who you choose to follow.

So why would you follow THAT man? The man named Jesus. What do you see in Him that is different from others? What stands out? What draws you to Him? What could make you fall in love with Him? Why would you want to say “Yes” to His proposal? If you have been chosen by Him, are you still in awe that He would want you? Do you pinch yourself to see if it is real? Do you feel compelled to fall on your knees before Him or have you become too comfortable with His being around for that? Does His name—the name of Jesus—thrill you when you hear it? Can you view a cross today and not be moved? When you hear His name taken in vain, do you cringe? Do you feel like you need to cut off someone’s ear?

But, seriously why would you want to follow THAT man?

No Sunday school answers will do. Why? Recently evangelical Christians in the US were surveyed and 52 % said they did not believe that Jesus is the Son of God, but only a good man, teacher, and prophet. Allegiance to Jesus is slipping radically in the US. It is giving way to other voices, philosophies, ideologies, and religions. It is more important than ever that we know why we follow THAT man. AND, to take a good look to see if we really do, in fact, follow THAT man.

Over the next few weeks I want to give you some reasons why I follow THAT man named Jesus.

No One Ever Spoke Like This Man

John 7:25-32; 40-52 25 At that point some of the people of Jerusalem began to ask, “Isn’t this the man they are trying to kill? 26 Here he is, speaking publicly, and they are not saying a word to him. Have the authorities really concluded that he is the Messiah? 27 But we know where this man is from; when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from.” 28 Then Jesus, still teaching in the temple courts, cried out, “Yes, you know me, and you know where I am from. I am not here on my own authority, but he who sent me is true. You do not know him, 29 but I know him because I am from him and he sent me.” 30 At this they tried to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come. 31 Still, many in the crowd believed in him. They said, “When the Messiah comes, will he perform more signs than this man?” 32 The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering such things about him. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees sent temple guards to arrest him.

40 On hearing his words, some of the people said, “Surely this man is the Prophet.” 41 Others said, “He is the Messiah.” Still others asked, “How can the Messiah come from Galilee? 42 Does not Scripture say that the Messiah will come from David’s descendants and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?” 43 Thus the people were divided because of Jesus. 44 Some wanted to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him. 45 **Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and the Pharisees, who asked them, “Why didn’t you bring him in?” 46 “No one ever spoke the way this man does,” the guards replied.** 47 “You mean he has deceived you also?” the Pharisees retorted. 48 “Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in him? 49 No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law—there is a curse on them.” 50 Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number, asked, 51 “Does our law condemn a man without first hearing him to find out what he has been doing?” 52 They replied, “Are you from Galilee, too? Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee.”

Their Three Arguments Against Jesus:

- 1) No Jewish ruler or Pharisee has believed in Him (Nicodemus???) Like saying “No scientist believes in creation.”
- 2) The “mob” knows nothing about the law (later when the mob was in their side, they thought they were brilliant. Cursed is another way of saying Canceled.
- 3) No prophet comes out of Galilee (didn’t do their homework-Bethlehem)

What they did not do was address what Jesus was actually teaching. The soldiers were much more astute than the leaders were.

How do I describe the words of Jesus?

- He is the very embodiment of the WORD of GOD. Jn.1:1-2
- He alone was full of grace and truth. Jn.1:14, 17
- As Nicodemus said, “We know you are a teacher who has come from God.” (Jn.3:2)

- The woman at the well was overwhelmed at His words. “Come see a man who told me everything I ever did.” (Jn.4:29)
- The Samaritans, after hearing Him for themselves, said, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.” (Jn.4:42)
- Jesus said, “Whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.” (Jn.5”24)
- When the crowds of John 6 were leaving Jesus because of his hard teachings, Jesus offered for his disciples to leave too but Peter answered, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” (Jn.6:68)
- Jesus declares, “My teaching is not my own. It comes from Him who sent me.” (Jn.7:16)
- Again Jesus declares, “I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.” (Jn.8:28)
- In John 10 Jesus says His sheep hear and know His voice.
- In John 11 when Jesus spoke Lazarus came out of the tomb
- In John 12 Jesus says the world will be judged by His words (12:48)
- In John 13 Jesus accurately foretold the betrayal and denial of Judas and Peter
- In John 14:10 Jesus says, “The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing His work.”
- In John 15:15 Jesus says He tell his disciples everything that He has learned from His Father.
- In John 16:30 Jesus’ disciples concluded, “Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions.”
- In John 17 Jesus declared that He had given His disciples God’s words which were given to Him.
- In John 18 Jesus told the high priest that he had spoken openly to the world-they could ask anyone what He had taught.
- Also in John 18 when Jesus was before Pilate he said, “Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

Why do I follow THAT MAN? There is no one other than Him that I can trust to tell me the truth. He is the single source of truth of all times. I stay less confused when I listen to Him. I am clear in my thinking when I listen to Him. I am less afraid when I hear Him speak. I am more certain when I hear Him explain things. I choose with Mary to sit at His feet and listen to His words. There is no teacher who has ever lived greater than the teacher named Jesus. I will take every class He offers. I will take copious notes. I will replay the tapes. I will even read His footnotes. Why am I a disciple of Jesus-because no one has ever spoken like this MAN!