

Matthew - "Why Jesus?"

"Follow Me"

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Matthew 8:18-20 – Would-be follower # 1 = The Scribe

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Two levels of understanding:

- 1) *The foxes & the birds*
 - 2) *Political level*
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Daniel 7:9 "As I looked, thrones were placed, & the Ancient of Days took His seat; His clothing was white as snow, & the hair of His head like pure wool; His throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. [10] A stream of fire issued & came out from before Him; a thousand thousands served Him, & ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him; the court sat in judgment, & the books were opened."

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Two levels of understanding:

- 1) *The foxes & the birds*
- 2) *Political level*

"You sound eager to follow Me but you have not considered how different following Me might be to what you expect"

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Matthew 8:21-22 – Would-be follower # 2 = The "Disciple"

Ibn al-Salibi – Middle Eastern Syriac Theological scholar

"Let me go and bury" = Let me go and serve my father while he is alive and after he dies I will bury him and come"

Ibrahim Sa'id - an Arabic Theological Scholar agrees

"The 2nd would-be disciple is looking far into the future for he postpones following Jesus to a time AFTER the death of his father"

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Reviewing the first two would-be followers:

1) To the 1st guy who is eager to follow Jesus says you don't know what that means... My road is a road of suffering & losing on behalf of others

2) To the 2nd guy - If you want to follow Me, then you cannot put Me off, & you may be required to cut against the norm of expectations

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Matthew 8:23-27 – Would-be follower # 3 = THE Disciples

General observations:

➤ "His disciples followed Him"

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Matthew 8:23-27 – Would-be follower # 3 = THE Disciples

General observations:

- "His disciples followed Him"
- The boat

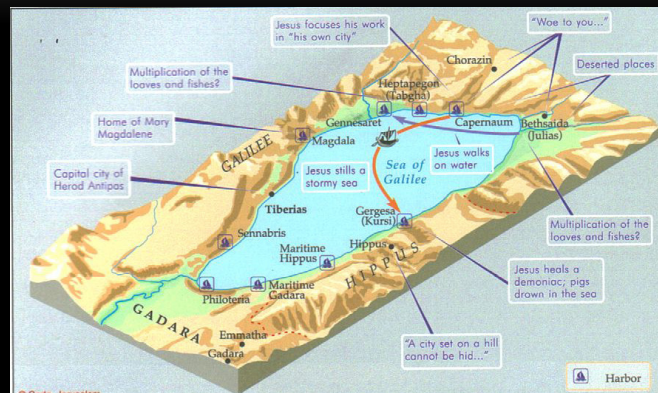


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Matthew 8:23-27 – Would-be follower # 3 = THE Disciples

General observations:

- "His disciples followed Him"
- The boat
- "Let's go to the other side"
- The storm



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Matthew 8:23-27 – Would-be follower # 3 = THE Disciples

Hab. 3:15 You trampled on the sea with Your horses, On the surge of many waters

Job 9:8 Who alone stretches out the heavens And tramples down the waves of the sea;

Psalm 65:7 Who stills the roaring of the seas, The roaring of their waves, And the tumult of the peoples.

Psalm 89:9 You rule the swelling of the sea; When its waves rise, You still them.

Psalm 107:23-30 Those who go down to the sea in ships, Who do business on great waters; ²⁴ They have seen the works of the LORD, And His wonders in the deep. ²⁵ For He spoke and raised up a stormy wind, Which lifted up the waves of the sea. ²⁶ They rose up to the heavens, they went down to the depths; Their soul melted away in their misery. ²⁷ They reeled and staggered like a drunken man, And ²⁸were at their wits' end. ²⁸ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, And He brought them out of their distresses. ²⁹ He caused the storm to be still, So that the waves of the sea were hushed. ³⁰ Then they were glad because they were quiet, So He guided them to their desired haven.

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Matthew 8:28-34 – Would-be follower # 4 = THE Gentiles



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Matthew - "Why Jesus?"

The 5th response!

*Luke 8:38 The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with Him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, [39] "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." **And he went** away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.*

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The 5th response!

Jesus restores this man's LIFE:

- *A man had Demons – “the demons had gone from the man”*
 - *He had worn no clothes – “he was clothed”*
 - *He did not live in a house but in the tombs – “return to your home”*
 - *He fell down before Him and shouted – “he was sitting at the feet of Jesus”*
 - *The demon seized him & he was out of control – “he was in his right mind”*
 - *He was kept under guard with shackles and chains – “he was restored to his community”*
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The 5th response!

Here is a man that:

- *Was full of demons*
 - *Receives Salvation*
 - *Shows how bonded & full of gratitude with Jesus he is by wanting to go anywhere Jesus goes*
 - *Who then responds like a Disciple and becomes the first person to be commissioned by Jesus for missional work to another place*
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Conclusion:

Following Jesus means:

- 1) *Pouring yourself out...losing possibly so that they might gain*
 - 2) *NOW in trust & abandonment...not when it makes sense to you*
 - 3) *Dropping YOUR expectations & in trust letting Him have His way*
 - 4) *Setting God in the proper context of Scripture not what YOU THINK*
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