

## Matthew 4:19 WHO DO YOU FOLLOW?

Memorial Day – honor men/women died military service – **MEETING AGAIN SOON**

JESUS WAS THE FIRST SOCIAL MEDIA CELEBRITY – popularized “**follower**”

In an era defining influence by how many followers a person has **JESUS WINS**

- **EVEN** Cristiano Renaldo boasts 219 million
- **But what does it mean to follow?** Concept of following has suffered **REDUC.**

○ Selecting the kind of syrup want in your latte – batch influencers YF leadership (greater imp) – beauty (subscribe treatments) – sports (iconic) - **CONTENT**

○ **CONTENT:** Influences our attitudes and drives r decisions – **NOT DENY MUDDLED WORLD OF MANY VOICES – CREATING CONFUSION IN CHRISTIANS**

In times of calamity voices grow louder and they’re often amplified by fear.

- **Who do I follow** – what voice has the greatest influence in my life?

**MP There is one voice that should be louder and more influential than any other voice, the voice of Jesus. You are called to follow Him and influence for Him.**

Matthew 4:19 “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

**Complex times demand simple reminders. Follow and influence.**

## **FOLLOW**

**NT Concept carried the idea of 100% - ALL IN – Holding Nothing back – 3 THINGS**

- **U**LEAVE: Unbelief and the old life are left behind – **DROP THE NETS**
- **Way of Living – Way of Thinking – FOLLOW THE WAY**

**Cortez mexico** – Forwardw/cortez is the only option – Forward w/Jesus

- **U**MAKE: Jesus your Ultimate focus – priority, preeminent, Lord and Master
- **A Rabbis invitation** – learn and live the lifestyle of the **MASTER (ALL)**

**Follow Me, Teaching them to obey all things that I command, He who believes in Me, whoever hears these sayings of mine and does them is like a wise man**

**Jesus Christ is not just an influence in your life He is THE influence in your life.**

- **U**MEASURE: All things are filtered through Christ’s commands
- Believe, respond, attitude **HIM first (not other INF) – Q’s From Christ**

**Christians don’t bury their heads in the sand, they choose to prioritize their lives around the person and the words of Christ**

- **REMEMBER WHOM YOU ARE FOLLOWING - JESUS**

Not pop culture, not caught up and consumed in conspiracies, not predicating God’s providence on predictive coronavirus models, not cynical in thinking that everyone has sinister intent.

## **INFLUENCE**

**influencer** is someone in a niche or industry w/sway over a target audience. **Influencers** have specialized knowledge, authority or insight into a specific subject.

**Jay Baer (business strategist) “True influence drives action, not just awareness.**

- **You are an influencer 4 Christ** – not prod/person – aware/act -**HOW**

CH Spurgeon, the great English preacher of the nineteenth century, was asked once by a young leader, "How can I be used of God to lead people to Christ?" Spurgeon's brilliantly replied, "Young man, set yourself on fire and people will come and watch you burn!"

- **Newsboys: Take me to your leader (SIMPLE) - Do that - lead2leader**

**5 step strategy: Livegospel, Lovepl, PraySpecific, ShareChrist, InviteDecide**

**We are impacted instead of making an impact. We are influenced instead of influencing**

Matthew 5:13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. <sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. <sup>16</sup> Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

**CONCLUSION: RAVI Z. - loved this church/our city/ towering intellect/kindness/love/unwavering commitment to truth**

**COURAGE TO FOLLOW AND INFLUENCE**