

“WHERE HE LEADS ME I WILL FOLLOW”

INTRODUCTION

In a previous lesson, we looked at the hymn, “Footsteps (or footprints) of Jesus,” and based the 4 points of the lesson on the 4 stanzas of the hymn by Mary Slade, which was written almost 200 years ago. We observed that when we walk in the footsteps of Jesus, they will lead us to the Jordan of BAPTISM, the mountain of SEEKING THE LOST, the temple of WORSHIP, and the highway to HEAVEN.

There is another hymn with similar ideas which was also written in the 19th century, entitled “Where He Leads Me I Will Follow.” Christ is the Good Shepherd (John 10:11), the Chief Shepherd (1 Pet. 5:4), and is perfect in all things. We are the followers, and when we do so, we will never go astray. He once said, “My sheep hear my voice and they follow me” (John 10:27). Now, if we follow Jesus where He went, we will not go wrong. Let’s see where He leads us that we need to follow.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, Jesus leads us through the GETHSEMANAE OF SORROW

A. Though Jesus’ life was filled with the enjoyment of rightful pleasures, it **ended** with sorrow in the fulfilling of His sacrificial mission.

1. The word “Gethsemanae” literally means “olive crush”, and has become a symbol for suffering, for it was here that Jesus suffered as His heart was crushed with sorrow.
 - a. Jesus wept at the grave of Lazarus.
 - b. Jesus wept over the wicked city of Jerusalem.
2. It was **in** Gethsemanae that the time of sorrow really began for Jesus. Matt. 26:36-46

B. In following Jesus, we too must walk in the Gethsemanae of sorrow, for being Christians does NOT make us immune to sorrow in this life.

1. We sorrow to see our loved ones lost in sin.
2. We sorrow when we have sinned and need to repent. 2 Cor. 7:10
3. We sorrow when we lose loved ones, but we do NOT sorrow as those who have no hope. 1 Thess. 4:13-15

II. 2nd, Jesus leads us through the valley of the SHADOW OF DEATH.

A. Jesus’ sorrow **ended** in His death on the cross. John 10:11; Matt. 20:28

1. Jesus shed His blood for the remission of sins. Matt. 26:28
2. Jesus died that **we** might live. Rom. 5:8-10

B. Death is inevitable for Christians, (as well as for non-Christians), for ALL mankind is subject to physical death. Heb. 9:27

1. Many have suffered to the point of death, because **of** their faith. Rev. 2:10
2. We are comforted to know that Jesus went the way of death **for** us—making it easier for us, knowing that the sinless Savior had to suffer in our behalf. Psa. 23:1-6

III. 3rd, Jesus leads us to the morning of the RESURRECTION.

A. Jesus was raised **from** the dead by the power of God. Rom. 1:4

1. Jesus was raised for our justification. 1 Pet. 1:3

2. Jesus was raised that **we** might also be raised. 1 Cor. 15:20-23

B. The promise of the resurrection is for **all**, and brings comfort to the Christian. John 5:28-29; 1 Thess. 4:16-18

IV. 4th, Jesus leads us to the entrance into the HEAVENLY CITY.

A. After Jesus was resurrected, He ascended into heaven to be glorified with the Father.
Luke 24:26; John 17:1, 5

1. His willingness to suffer gave Him the anticipated “joy” to endure the cross. Heb. 12:1-2

2. He makes it possible for His “sheep” who follow Him, to ultimately enter into that glory with Him. Rom. 8:17

B. Christ is the “way” to the Father, and if we are faithfully **in** Him, that heavenly city will also be ours to enjoy forever and ever. John 14:6; 15:6

CONCLUSION

I. There is another hymn entitled “Where He Leads Me I will Follow.”

A. Jesus had said that His sheep hear His voice and they follow Him. John 10:27

B. Hearing and knowing the will of Christ is basic to following Him,.

II. If you have not obeyed Christ, or have left Him and need to return, the invitation is yours right now, as we stand together and sing the song of encouragement.

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