**Don’t Follow the Crowd!**

TEXT: Luke 9: 23

INTRO.

A.     Bumper Sticker- “Don’t follow the crowd unless they follow Jesus”

* + - 1. Sounds reasonable at first.
      2. But why not follow Jesus and be part of the crowd?

B.     Sign of independence; be your own person, not “go with the flow”

C.     Following the crowd of Jesus (the disciples) not necessarily a good thing.

# I.                  The Call to follow Jesus

##### A. The Disciples—Matt. 4: 18-22; Mk. 3: 18-19

B.     The multitudes—(After He fed the 5000) Luke 9: 23-24; Matt. 11: 28-30

C.    Saul of Tarsus, Apostle Paul—Acts 9: 4-6

II.               Should we follow the crowd? (Read John 6: 61-67)

##### The 5000 who were fed

1. Followed him around the lake.
2. Looking for another meal.
3. Jesus called himself the “Bread of Life”
4. Jews murmured against Jesus (vs. 41-43)
5. Walked no more with him—vs. 66

##### B.     The Twelve remained—vs. 67

* + 1. **How many left? Don’t know.**
    2. 70 that were sent out in Luke 10:1?
    3. Of those that remained, follow them?

C.    Peter

1. Pride—Mk. 14: 27-31

Offended, vs. 29

Deny, vs. 31

Cowardice—Mk. 14: 53-54

Denial—Mk. 14: 66-71 (A sense of worldliness)

Warming self—vs. 67

Denying Jesus—vs. 68, 70, 71

Curse and swear—vs. 71

D.    James and John

1. Who is the Greatest? —Matt. 18: 1-4
2. Request—Mk. 10: 35-41 (persisted)

E.     Judas

1.      Deal with the Chief Priests—Mt. 26: 14-15

1. Betrayal—Mt. 26: 46-49
2. The end—Mat. 27: 1-5

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##### III.             Why follow the crowd?

1. Persuasion—1 Kings 12: 26-33
2. Jeroboam vs. Rehoboam (Divided Nations)
   1. Read verse 26
   2. 2 calves of gold, wrong object of worship (vs. 28)
   3. Dan and Bethel, wrong place of worship (vs. 29)
   4. Priests, not of Levi (vs. 31)
   5. Feast Day, not of God’s Design (vs. 30)
   6. Outcome— Ch. 13: 1-3
3. Preachers Today
   1. Megachurches
      1. No discussion of sin
      2. No negative preaching
      3. No one held accountable
   2. Church Growth Movement
      1. Physical needs met
      2. Relationships created
      3. Business contacts
   3. Smooth things—Isa. 30: 10
   4. Similar passions—2 Tim. 4: 3-4
   5. Rom. 14: 17

1. Family Tradition—
   1. “My family is Methodist, and so am I”
   2. “I was born a Lutheran, and I’ll die a Lutheran”
   3. Jesus said, Lk. 14: 26-27

### IV.            When You Follow the Crowd…

1. Follow false teachers—Matt. 7:15-16
2. Leave the Gospel—
   1. Paul writes, Gal. 1: 6-7
   2. 2 John 9

“Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God: he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son.”

##### C.    Follow doctrines of Men—Matt. 15: 7-9

1.      Pope

a.      Man of Sin?—2 Thess. 2:3-4

b.      Jesus condemned titles—Matt. 23: 9

c. Jesus also warned—Mt. 24: 24

“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.”

2.      Billy Graham

a.       Receive Jesus as a personal savior—Sinner’s Prayer

b.      Choose church of your choice (650 churches backing him)

c.       Paul warned—2 Cor. 11: 13-15

“Now these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes; that in us ye might learn not `to go' beyond the things which are written; that no one of you be puffed up for the one against the other.”

1. Me?
   1. Suppose I promote Divorce for any cause?
      1. Tired of spouse? Move on to next.
      2. Jesus said, Matt. 19: 9
      3. God said, Mal. 2: 16
   2. “Doesn’t matter what you believe…”
      1. Paul writes, Eph. 4: 5-6
      2. Different denominations, different gods

##### D.    Results of following the crowd

1.      Label self after “leader” 1 Cor. 3: 4-11

Modern- “I of Billy Graham”, “I of Chris Mentzer”

2.      Divisions—1 Cor. 1:12-13

a.       Who died for you? Three Questions

i.         Did Chris Mentzer die on the Cross for my sins?

ii.       Will Chris Mentzer return in the Second Coming to collect everyone?

iii.      Will Chris Mentzer Judge me for my life?

b.      If no, to all questions, then why member of their church?

3.      Think the same—vs. 10

### V.               Follow Jesus, not the crowd

##### A.    Authority—Matt. 28:18; Acts 4:12

MATT 28:18 “And Jesus came to them and spake unto them, saying, ‘All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth.’

ACTS 4:12 (Peter Said) “And in none other is there salvation: for neither is there any other name under heaven, that is given among men, wherein we must be saved.”

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##### The Only Way—John 14: 6

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

##### Holds the Words—

##### Peter said, John 6: 68-69

* 1. Peter knew, Matt. 16: 16

“And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

# Conclusion

Who will you follow?

Lk. 9: 23