

Follow Me

By: Eric Whitaker

- I. “I traveled down a lonely road and no one seemed to care”
 - a. We travel through life
 - b. Jesus says there’s two ways
 - i. **(Matt 7:13-14)** “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”
 - ii. Some times the way is lonely
 - c. Sometimes it seems no one cares
 - i. Example of Job’s troubles
 - 1. **(Job 19:14)** “My kinsfolk have failed, and my familiar friends have forgotten me.”
 - 2. He surely felt that no one cared for his suffering
- II. “The burden on my weary back had bowed me to despair”
 - a. Life is full of burdens
 - i. **(Job 14:1-2)** “Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.”
 - b. Sometimes these burdens can put us in despair
 - i. Job lost his children and now has become tormented with boils
 - ii. **(Job 3:1-3)** “After this opened Job his mouth, and cursed his day. And Job spake, and said, Let the day perish wherein I was born, and the night in which it was said, There is a man child conceived.”
 - 1. Job was in despair. He cursed the day that he was born. Yet he never turned on the one that could help him.
- III. “I oft complained to Jesus how folks were treating me”
 - a. **(Ps 77:1-3)** “I cried unto God with my voice, even unto God with my voice; and he gave ear unto me. In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord: my sore ran in the night, and ceased not: my soul refused to be comforted. I remembered God, and was troubled: I complained, and my spirit was overwhelmed. Selah.”
 - i. ‘Complaint’ is gong to God in prayer as in a petition - not whining
Like in **(Numbers 11:1)** “And when the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard it; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them, and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp.”
- IV. “And then I heard Him say so tenderly”
 - a. **(Heb 1:1-2)** “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

- i. The Son speaks to us through the word of God
 - ii. (John 16:12-13) “I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”
 - iii. Jesus Christ speaks through the inspired writers
 - 1. (2 Tim 3:16-17) “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”
- V. “My feet were also weary upon that Calvary road; the cross became so heavy I fell beneath the load”
 - a. (John 19:17-18) “And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.
 - i. John says that Christ bore his cross
 - b. (Matt 27:32) “And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross.”
 - i. Matthew says that Simon bore his cross
 - c. (Luke 23:26) “And as they led him away, they laid hold upon one Simon, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus.”
 - i. Luke says that Simon bore the cross after Jesus
- VI. “Be faithful weary pilgrim The morning I can see”
 - a. (Rev 2:10) “Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”
- VII. “Just lift thy cross and follow close to me”
 - a. (Luke 9:23) “And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”
- VIII. I work so hard for Jesus I often boast and say “I’ve sac-ri-ficed a lot of things To walk the narrow way I gave up fame and fortune I’m worth a lot to Thee.
 - a. (James 4:16-17) “But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil. Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”
 - i. They think themselves show-offs
 - ii. Their rejoicing is evil
 - iii. The reason their boasting is evil is because they have nothing to boast about
 - 1. Because it was their Christian duty
 - a. Caleb is assistant Manager at Wendys his job is to make sure the costumer is served. If he accomplishes his job he has no reason to brag

- a. (Luke 9:23) “And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”