

Sunday, April 12, 2015
Believe and Follow
Colossians 2:6
Senior Pastor, John Dickerson

Now that you've received Christ, _____ Him. (Colossians 2:6)

1. Followers _____ things that compete with Jesus—because following Him matters more. (Matthew 4:19-22)

What must I forsake to follow Jesus?

Have I resolved to forsake (or deny) myself, in order to follow Christ?

2. Followers _____—but are never _____. (Matthew 26:56, 73-75)

I recover from mistakes by focusing on my _____, not by focusing on my failure.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. We know of at least 20 people who placed their faith in Christ during Cornerstone's Easter Sunday services. Were you among the many who prayed to trust in Christ? If so, let your group know. Take a moment to celebrate as a group how God worked on Easter Sunday—drawing many to salvation.

2. In Scripture, we see that true believers follow Christ, but they rarely follow perfectly. In fact, all following believers stumble. Colossians 2 verse 6 tells us: "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him." Is it your desire to continue to live in Christ? If so, take a moment to pray that to Him now—as an individual or group.

3. Take a moment to read Matthew 4:19-22. In this passage, Jesus' first followers dropped their nets and even left familiar people, in order to follow Jesus. What sort of things will you have to forsake if you really want to follow Jesus? Be specific, and be open.

4. Take a moment to read Matthew 16:24. One of the hardest things to forsake, in following Jesus, is our own desire to control our lives. Following Jesus means trusting Him more than I trust myself. While none of us will make this decision perfectly, every time, all of us can pre-decide "I want Jesus' way in my life, more than I want my own." Have you had a moment in life when you resolved to deny self, in order to follow Christ?

5. Scripture is full of stories of followers who tripped and failed while following Jesus. This is normal. Take a moment to read one example of this in Matthew 26:56 & 73-75. Discuss those verses. We know from John chapter 21, and the books Peter later wrote (1 and 2 Peter) that God fully restored Peter, after his failure, and used Peter to establish the worldwide Church. As we follow Christ, we will fail, too, but we will never be failures. Is there an area in your life, where you need to know this?

6. Our final idea was that "I recover from mistakes by focusing on my Savior, not by focusing on my failure." Take a moment to focus on your Savior in prayer. He is in the business of picking up, helping and repairing His followers. Remind yourself of the old quote "The saints are just the sinners who fall down—and get up." Because of Christ, we can always get up, and continue following.