

Dear Friend of [Abiding Above](#),

September 2010

Do you remember the old hymn “*I Have Decided to Follow Jesus?*” Here are the words:

*I have decided to follow Jesus; no turning back, no turning back.  
Though I may wonder, I still will follow.  
The world behind me, the cross before me.  
Though none go with me, still I will follow.  
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?  
No turning back, no turning back.*

It’s time friends, for each of us to say with all of our heart, “***Though None Go With Me I Still Will Follow!***”

Now, look closely at what Jesus said, “*If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.*” **Luke 14:26**

My friend, these words are from the same loving Lord Jesus that told the woman at the well to, “*Go and sin no more.*”

His language about hate is shocking as He intended it to be. He wanted His hearers to be certain about the hard demand He was making. He was saying, “*Make no mistake, being my disciple will not mean a life of ease.*”

Jesus is saying that our love for Him must outshine all other loves, even the love we feel for our families. Every other love in our lives must seem like hate when compared to our love for Jesus Christ.

Remember these words of our sweet and loving Lord Jesus? “*He who loves his family or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.*” **Matthew 10:37**

And then we see Jesus making this even more personal, “*And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.*” **Luke 14:27**

*“No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”*

**Luke 9:62**

*“Remember Lot’s wife. Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.”* **Luke 17:32-33**

My friend, Jesus means death to self, to our own plans and ambitions and a willingness to serve Him as He directs. The “I” in your life has been crossed out by the cross.

I have just returned from preaching near Washington, DC this past Sunday. I arrived a day early to attend the large rally in front of the Lincoln Memorial. I saw far more than 500,000 everyday Americans yearning to see our country turn back to God. It was beautiful to listen to this many voices sing Amazing Grace.

Afterwards, I looked into the faces of many, and listened to what they said as the great crowd dispersed. There seemed to be somewhat of a let down, a disappointment. I believe they were sincere. I also believe they were seeking a sign or some special experience. I believe they seriously want to do something to fix our nation, and for many, to help strengthen the local church.

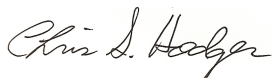
I am convinced the longing in all of our hearts will not be satisfied by any event, but when each individual kneels in genuine repentance of personal sin, and then stands with this firmly fixed in their minds, *“Though None Go With Me, Still I Will Follow.”*

This is what Jesus is calling us to, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*  
Amen! **Matthew 28:19-20**

I encourage you my friend, begin to disciples others. This is something you can do. Once you have read and listened to the daily news, go and make disciples. Be careful not to waste time by only talking about the state of the nation and the state of the church. Pray for our churches and the nation as you keep up with current events. Most importantly, go and make disciples. Jesus must be coming soon. Be found faithful. Be a disciple of Jesus Christ. No longer “I” but Christ!

Thank you for praying and supporting me. I could feel the wind of God’s Spirit as I preached in Tennessee, Georgia, Arkansas, and Maryland this month. To God be the glory great things He is doing! I love you.

Abiding above,



Chris S. Hodges

President

Abiding Above Ministries

Colossians 3:1-3