

WHEN YOU CHOOSE TO FOLLOW
Mark 6:7-56 (NIV)

❖ Things to Know... if you Choose to Follow Jesus:

Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits. ⁸These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff--no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. ⁹Wear sandals but not an extra tunic. ¹⁰Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. ¹¹And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them." ¹²They went out and preached that people should repent. ¹³They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

Mark 6:7-13 (NIV)

1. Don't follow ALONE.

A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NLT)

2. Not everyone will LISTEN.

But when the Jews opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am clear of my responsibility. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

Acts 18:6 (NIV)

3. Lives will be CHANGED.

When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life."

Acts 11:18 (NIV)

❖ Things to Do... While you are Following Jesus:

The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. ³¹Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." ³²So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. ³³But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things. ³⁵By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. "This is a remote place," they said, "and it's already very late. ³⁶Send the people away so they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." ³⁷But he answered, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "That would take eight months of a man's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?" ³⁸"How many loaves do you have?" He asked. "Go and see." When they found out, they said, "Five-- and two fish." ³⁹Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. ⁴¹Taking the five loaves

and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. ⁴²They all ate and were satisfied, ⁴³and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. ⁴⁴The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

Mark 6:30-44 (NIV)

1. Make time for REST and FELLOWSHIP.

By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.

Genesis 2:2 (NIV)

2. See DISTRACTIONS as potential OPPORTUNITIES.

And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. ⁴⁴She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped. ⁴⁵"Who touched me?" Jesus asked... ⁴⁷Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet... ⁴⁸Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

Luke 8:43-45, 47a-48 (NIV)

3. Jesus' PLAN may be bigger than your UNDERSTANDING.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord.

Isaiah 55:8 (NIV)

❖ Things to Understand... as you Follow Jesus' Purpose for your Life:

Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray. ⁴⁷When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. ⁴⁸He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, ⁴⁹but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, ⁵⁰because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." ⁵¹Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, ⁵²for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened. ⁵³When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. ⁵⁴As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. ⁵⁵They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶And wherever he went--into villages, towns or countryside--they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed.

Mark 6:45-56 (NIV)

1. Understand the PRIORITY Jesus puts into PRAYER.

"Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

Luke 21:36 (NIV)

2. Understand the POWER of Jesus as the SON of GOD.

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you."

Exodus 3:14 (NIV)

3. Understand the PURPOSE of following Jesus and that people are being SAVED.

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

John 10:10 (NIV)