



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Numbers 8:1-12:15
- Mark 2:14; John 10:1-30
- Luke 9:18-24; 14:25-35
- I Kings 19:1-18

“FOLLOW ME”

- Follow Me, and...
- What then?
- My Sheep Hear My Voice
- A Still Small Voice

“Follow Me!” Have you heard those words? Have they echoed in your heart so loudly that they drown out all other sounds? I pray they have. I remember the day like it was yesterday, almost 30 years ago. As if someone suddenly flipped on the lights and instantly the world around me became bright. No, you rarely know how dark it is until the lights go on. For me it was the day I heard those words, “Follow Me!” I have been running hard after Him ever since and I don’t regret a minute of it. I remember the words of my future wife years later, as I sat next to her on a plane in Panama, on the mission trip on which we met. “When I die, I want my gravestone to say, “All used up for God!”” I recall thinking in that moment, “I’m going to marry this girl!”

It's the pattern for sure; Y'shua says, "Follow Me!" And if you do, you will have joined the greatest adventure imaginable. Peter wondered what would come of those who would join Him; "Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?" If you've walked with Him for any length of time, you know the answer. It will be the hardest most challenging life imaginable, one filled with daily opportunities to take up your cross and die to everything you once held dear. And it will be the most glorious and satisfying decision you will ever make! "Follow Me?" Yes, I will follow you anywhere and do anything You ask. I couldn't imagine life any other way; how about you?

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

"Whenever the **cloud was taken up** from above the tabernacle, after that **the children of Israel would journey**; and in the place **where the cloud settled, there the children of Israel would pitch their tents. At the command** of the LORD the children of Israel would journey, and **at the command** of the LORD they would camp; as long as the cloud stayed above the tabernacle they remained encamped." Numbers 9:17-18 NKJV

"And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: "Make two silver trumpets for yourself; you shall make them of hammered work; you

shall use them for **calling the congregation** and for **directing the movement of the camps.**" Numbers 10:1-2 NKJV

OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE

"As He passed by, He saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, **"Follow Me."** So he arose and followed Him." Mark 2:14 NKJV

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, **and they follow Me."** John 10:27 NKJV

"Behold, **we have left everything** and followed You; **what then** will there be for us?" Matthew 19:27 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. This portion instructs about the arrangement of the lamps, and tells the story of the cleansing and dedication of the Levites, the first Passover in the wilderness (which is the 2nd Passover), the cloud and fire that the children of Israel followed, the silver trumpets and all their types of blowing, the departure from Sinai, the grumbling in the wilderness, the assembling of the first Sanhedrin made up of seventy elders, and the dissension of Aaron of Miriam.

Numbers 8

2. **Arrangement of the Lamps:** The seven lamps are arranged in such a way that they give light in front of the lampstand (menorah). We are reminded that the lampstand was designed according to the pattern which Yahweh had given Moses (like every other detail of the Tabernacle and its furnishings).
3. **Cleansing and Dedication of the Levites**
 - a) Sprinkle water of purification on them.
 - b) Shave their bodies.
 - c) Wash their clothes.
 - d) Offer two bulls and a grain offering.
 - e) The children of Israel lay hands on the Levites (as a wave offering).
 - f) And then the Levites lay hands on the bulls.
 - g) Offer one bull as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering.
 - h) This will separate the Levites from the rest of Israel.
 - i) Then, they can go into service and they can become substitutes for the firstborns of all the other tribes (one Levite in service per firstborn of Israel). See: [The Firstborn Swap](#)
 - j) The Levites are a gift to Aaron and his sons to do the work of the Tabernacle.
 - k) They can perform these duties from 25-50 years of age.

- l) After age 50, they may still minister but they themselves shall do no work.

Numbers 9

4. The First Passover in the Wilderness (the 2nd Passover)

- a) In the first month of the second year in the wilderness the people keep their second Passover.
- b) Certain men who were defiled by a corpse approach Moses as they are concerned that they cannot keep the Passover (they cannot present their offerings in a state of uncleanness).
- c) This is precisely why they wanted to pull Y'shua down off the cross before sunset!
 - 1) *“Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, **that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day)**, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.”* John 19:31 NKJV
- d) Moses inquires of Yahweh what to tell these men.
- e) Yahweh institutes an accommodation for those who are unclean or who are on a journey far away that they may keep the Passover in the second month.
- f) However, the second month is not an accommodation for those who can keep it in the first month. In other words, it's not an excuse to miss Passover.

g) Then we are reminded that foreigners dwelling among them are held to the same laws and must abide by the rites of Passover. We know that this also insinuates that they must be circumcised to eat the Passover.

1) *“And when a stranger dwells with you and wants to keep the Passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as a native of the land. For no uncircumcised person shall eat it. One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you.”* Exodus 12:48-49 NKJV

5. **The Cloud and the Fire that Covered the Tabernacle**

- a) From the first day the Tabernacle was completed a cloud of glory was over it (appearing as a cloud by day and fire by night).
- b) Yahweh used the cloud to move His people and to settle his people.
- c) When the cloud moved the people packed up and moved. When the cloud stopped, the people set up camp.
- d) And it did not matter how long the period of settling was, a day or a year. They stayed only as long as the cloud was still.

Numbers 10

6. **Two Silver Trumpets**

- a) Use them for calling the congregation and for directing the movement of the camps.
 - b) Blow both of them and all the congregation shall gather before the door of the tabernacle of meeting.
 - c) Blow only one and only the leaders shall gather.
 - d) Blow them also to sound the advance of the camps:
 - 1) First Blow: the camps on the east side begin their journey.
 - 2) Second Blow: the camps on the south side begin their journey.
 - e) There will be different blowing sounds so when the sons of Aaron blow, all will know the meaning. Sounds for:
 - 1) Gathering
 - 2) Advancing
 - 3) War
 - 4) Day of your gladness, in your appointed feasts
 - 5) Beginning of months
 - 6) Offerings
7. **Departure from Sinai** (This is the way they moved every time, with precision and order!)
- a) On the twentieth day of the second month, in the second year, that the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle of the Testimony. And the children of Israel set out from the Wilderness of Sinai for the first time. Thus was the order of

march of the children of Israel, according to their armies, when they began their journey:

- 1) Judah set out first followed by Issachar and then Zebulun
 - (a) Then the tabernacle was taken down; and the sons of Gershon and the sons of Merari set out, carrying the tabernacle.
 - 2) Then Reuben set out followed by Simeon and then Gad
 - (a) Then the Kohathites set out, carrying the holy things.
(The tabernacle would be prepared for their arrival.)
 - 3) Then Ephraim set out followed by Manasseh and then Benjamin
 - 4) Then Dan (the rear guard of all the camps) set out followed by Asher and then Naphtali
- b) Moses asks Hobab (AKA Jethro), his father-in-law to go with them, and that he will participate in Israel's promises. At first he says he will just depart back to his home and people.
 - c) Moses says... *"Please do not leave, inasmuch as you know how we are to camp in the wilderness, and you can be our eyes. And it shall be, if you go with us—indeed it shall be—that whatever good the LORD will do to us, the same we will do to you."* Numbers 10:31-32 NKJV
 - d) The ark of the covenant of Yahweh and the cloud of the LORD was above them by day.

e) *“So it was, whenever the ark set out, that Moses said: “Rise up, O LORD! Let Your enemies be scattered, And let those who hate You flee before You.” And when it rested, he said: “Return, O LORD, To the many thousands of Israel.””*

Numbers 10:35-36 NKJV

1) **Note:** Numbers 10:35-36 is read in synagogues around the world each time the Torah Scroll is take out for readings.

Numbers 11

8. The People Complain

- a) The people complained and it angered Yahweh, so He sent a little fire warning that burned the outskirts of the camp
- b) The mixed multitude yield to the intense cravings for the food they had in Egypt and they complain about the boring manna. The children of Israel get caught up in it. The peopled literally cried at the entrance to their tents.
- c) Both Yahweh and Moses are very angry over these complaints.
- d) Moses asks Yahweh why He has afflicted him to carry the burdens of these complainers. He feels like he is the guardian of a nursing child who will carry this burden all the way to the promised land. “How can I satisfy their need for meat?”

e) Moses is like, “If this is the way it’s going to be, just kill me now!” Otherwise, “If You favor me, do something about it so I don’t have to see my own wretchedness!”

1) This reminds of Paul’s words: *“O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God —through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.”* Romans 7:24-25 NKJV

9. **The Seventy Elders**

- a) Gather seventy elders of Israel to the tabernacle of meeting
- b) Yahweh will take of the Spirit that is upon Moses and will put the same upon them; so they shall bear the burden of the people.
- c) Then tell the people to get ready because Yahweh heard your wining and He is going to give you so much meat for thirty days that it will come out your nostrils so much meat that it will become loathsome to you.
- d) Now you shall see whether what I say will happen to you or not.
- e) So Moses gathered the seventy men and Yahweh took of the Spirit that was upon him, and placed the same upon the seventy elders

- f) The Spirit rested upon them, that they prophesied, although they never did so again.
- g) Two men had remained in the camp: Eldad and Medad. And the Spirit rested upon them. Now they were among those listed, but who had not gone out to the tabernacle; yet they prophesied in the camp. Joshua complains about it at asks Moses to stop them. Moses responds by telling Joshua that he wished all the people were prophets.
- h) Then Moses and the elders returned to the camp.

10. Quail from the Sea

- a) Quail about a day's journey from the camp piled two cubits high
- b) The people stayed up all that day, all night, and all the next day, and gathered the quail
- c) While the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed, Yahweh struck the people with a very great plague.

Numbers 12

11. Dissension of Aaron and Miriam

- a) Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because he married an Ethiopian woman and they question if Yahweh only speaks through Moses, and why not them!
- b) We find out that Moses was the most humble man on the face of the earth.

- c) Yahweh calls Moses, Aaron, and Miriam to the tabernacle
God calls Aaron and Miriam step forward. He says:
- 1) I speak to prophets in visions and dreams
 - 2) Moses is faithful in all My house
 - 3) I speak with him face to face
 - 4) Why are you not afraid to speak against My servant Moses?
- d) Yahweh turns Miriam leprous and Moses intercedes for her healing. Yahweh tells him that if her father had spit in her face, she'd be shamed seven days; so, He will heal her, but she first will be shut out of the camp seven days

FOLLOW ME, AND...

1. What then?

A. The Cloud and Fire

(1) His Presence is Obvious

- (a) "Now on the day that the tabernacle was raised up, **the cloud covered the tabernacle**, the tent of the Testimony; from evening until morning it was above the tabernacle like the appearance of fire. So it was always: **the cloud covered it by day, and the appearance of fire by night.**"

Numbers 9:15-16 NKJV

(2) Follow the Cloud

- (a) “**Whenever the cloud was taken up** from above the tabernacle, after that **the children of Israel would journey**; and in the place **where the cloud settled**, there the children of **Israel would pitch their tents.**” Numbers 9:17 NKJV
- (3) At His Command—Journey or Camp
 - (a) “**At the command of the LORD** the children of Israel would **journey**, and **at the command of the LORD** they would **camp**; as long as the cloud stayed above the tabernacle they remained encamped.” Numbers 9:18 NKJV
- (4) Be still...no matter how long it takes...
 - (a) “Even when the cloud **continued long, many days** above the tabernacle, the children of Israel kept the charge of the LORD and did not journey.” Numbers 9:19 NKJV
 - 1. “And Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. **Stand still**, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.”” Exodus 14:13-14 NKJV

2. “**Be still**, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

Psalms 46:10 NKJV

(5) Two Days or a Year, as long as you’re paying attention...

(a) “So it was, when the cloud was above the tabernacle a **few days**: according to the command of the LORD they would remain encamped, and according to the command of the LORD they would journey. So it was, when the cloud **remained only from evening until morning**: when the cloud was taken up in the morning, then they would journey; whether by day or by night, whenever the cloud was taken up, they would journey. **Whether it was two days, a month, or a year** that the cloud remained above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would remain encamped and not journey; but when it was taken up, they would journey.” Numbers 9:20-22 NKJV

(6) Your wish is my command

(a) “**At the command of the LORD they remained encamped, and at the command of the LORD they journeyed**; they kept the charge of the LORD, at the command of the LORD by the hand of Moses.” Numbers 9:23 NKJV

(7) Dr. Jeff's comments about positioning under the anointing of Yahweh...

- (a) **Anointing:** Covered with Yahweh's presence, favor and blessing.
- (b) **Alignment:** When you are in step with what God is doing and what God wants of you at all times.
- (c) **Integrity:** When all parts are being used for precisely what they were created for. Operating in strengths (the sweet spot!)
- (d) **Godliness:** Spiritual integrity. When spirit, soul and body are all in alignment with each other and with God.

B. "Follow Me"

(1) Fishers of Men

- (a) **Matthew:** "And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, **Simon called Peter, and Andrew** his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, "**Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.**" They **immediately left their nets and followed Him.** Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, **James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother,** in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. **He called them, and immediately**

they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.”

Matthew 4:18-22 NKJV [Also Mark 1:16-20]

- (a) Mark adds a piece which shows preparation... “And immediately He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat **with the hired servants**, and went after Him.” Mark 1:20

(2) Calling Matthew

- (a) **Mark:** “Then He went out again by the sea; and all the multitude came to Him, and He taught them. As He passed by, He saw Levi the **son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax office**. And He said to him, **“Follow Me.” So he arose and followed Him**. Now it happened, as He was dining in Levi’s house, that many tax collectors and sinners also sat together with Jesus and His disciples; for there were many, and they followed Him. And when the scribes and Pharisees saw Him **eating with the tax collectors and sinners**, they said to His disciples, “How is it that He eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners?” When Jesus heard it, He said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”” Mark 2:13-17 NKJV [Also Matthew 9:9-13; Luke 5:27-32]

C. “Follow Me” and...

(1) Sir, give me this living water...

(a) “A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give Me a drink.” For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, “How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?” For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered and said to her, **“If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”** The woman said to Him, “Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. **Where then do You get that living water?** Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?” Jesus answered and said to her, **“Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst.** But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life. The woman said to Him, **“Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.”**” John 4:7-15 NKJV

- (2) If anyone thirsts...rivers of living water
- (a) “On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, **“If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.** He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, **out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.**” But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.” John 7:37-39 NKJV
- (3) He who believes in Me...greater works
- (a) ““Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and **greater works than these he will do**, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.” John 14:12-14 NKJV

Summary: FOLLOW ME, AND...

1. The Cloud and Fire that sat over the tabernacle were a perfect depiction of how clearly Yahweh intended to lead His people.
2. No matter how long it lasts, when He moves, you move. When He stays still, you stay still!

3. Dr. Jeff's comments about positioning under the anointing of Yahweh...
 - (a) **Anointing:** Covered with Yahweh's presence, favor and blessing.
 - (b) **Alignment:** When you are in step with what God is doing and what God wants of you at all times.
 - (c) **Integrity:** When all parts are being used for precisely what they were created for. Operating in strengths (the sweet spot!)
 - (d) **Godliness:** Spiritual integrity. When spirit, soul and body are all in alignment with each other and with God.
4. A common encounter Y'shua had with those He called was a direct offer..."Follow ME!" And the proper response is..."Immediately..."
5. Follow Him and you will never thirst again, and you will do great things!

MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE

2. A Still Small Voice

A. The Sound of a Trumpet

(1) Trumpets—Calling and Directing

- (a) "And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: "Make two silver trumpets for yourself; you shall make them of hammered work; you shall **use them for calling the**

congregation and for directing the movement of the camps.” Numbers 10:1-2 NKJV

(2) The Gathering of the People

- (a) “When they **blow both** of them, all **the congregation shall gather** before you at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.” Numbers 10:3 NKJV

(3) The Gathering of Leaders

- (a) “But if they **blow only one**, then **the leaders**, the heads of the divisions of Israel, **shall gather** to you.” Numbers 10:4 NKJV

(4) Moving the Camp

- (a) “When you **sound the advance**, the camps that lie on the east side shall then begin their journey. When you **sound the advance the second time**, then the camps that lie on the south side shall begin their journey; they shall sound the call for them to begin their journeys.” Numbers 10:5-6 NKJV

(5) Gatherings without Advancing

- (a) “And when the assembly is to be **gathered** together, you shall blow, **but not sound the advance.**” Numbers 10:7 NKJV

(6) Who

(a) “**The sons of Aaron**, the priests, shall blow the trumpets; and these shall be to you as an ordinance forever throughout your generations.” Numbers 10:8 NKJV

(7) War

(a) ““When you go to war in your land against the enemy who oppresses you, then you shall **sound an alarm** with the trumpets, and you will be remembered before the LORD your God, and you will be saved from your enemies.” Numbers 10:9 NKJV

(8) Appointed Times

(a) “Also in the **day of your gladness**, in your **appointed feasts**, and at the **beginning of your months**, you shall **blow the trumpets** over your burnt offerings and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; and they shall be a memorial for you before your God: I am the LORD your God.”” Numbers 10:10 NKJV

B. A Still Small Voice

(1) Context—Elijah is afraid of Jezebel and runs for his life. Yahweh provides supernaturally for him, but questions why he is on the run...“They are killing the prophets...and I’m next!”

(a) “And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword.

Then **Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying,** “So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.” And when he saw that, **he arose and ran for his life** and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he **prayed that he might die,** and said, “It is enough! Now, LORD, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!” Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, “Arise and eat.” Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. **So he ate and drank,** and lay down again. And the angel of the LORD came back the second time, and touched him, and said, “Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you.” So he arose, **and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights** as far as Horeb, the mountain of God. And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and **He said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”** So he said, “I have been very zealous for the

LORD God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. **I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.**” I Kings 19:1-10 NKJV

- (2) Not in the hurricane, not in the earthquake, not in the fire...in the still small voice
 - (a) “Then He said, **“Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD.”** And behold, the LORD passed by, and a **great and strong wind tore into the mountains** and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, **but the LORD was not in the wind;** and **after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake;** and **after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire;** and after the fire a still small voice. So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, **“What are you doing here, Elijah?”**” I Kings 19:11-13 NKJV
- (3) Go return—I got this!
 - (a) “And he said, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and

killed Your prophets with the sword. **I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.**" Then the LORD said to him: "**Go, return** on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, anoint Hazael as king over Syria. Also you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place. **It shall be that whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill; and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill.** Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.'" I Kings 19:14-18 NKJV

C. My Sheep Hear My Voice

(1) You are the son of God...

- (a) "The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "**We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote**—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "**Come and see.**"

Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "**How do You know me?**" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, **You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!**" Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? **You will see greater things than these.**" And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."" John 1:43-51 NKJV

- (2) Are you the Christ? tell us plainly! My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.
- (a) "Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter. And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon's porch. Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, "**How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.**" Jesus answered them, "**I told you, and you do not believe [you are too busy looking for hurricanes, earthquakes and fires].** The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness

of Me. But you do not believe, because **you are not of My sheep**, as I said to you. **My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.** And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one." John 10:22-30 NKJV

- (3) Who do men say that I am—not revealed by flesh and blood!
- (a) “When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, **“Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”** So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, **“But who do you say that I am?”** Simon Peter answered and said, **“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”** Jesus answered and said to him, **“Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.** And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and

whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ."

Matthew 16:13-20 NKJV

D. Following Him—“So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.” Luke 5:11 NKJV

(1) Hand to the Plow

- (a) “And another also said, “Lord, **I will follow You, but** let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.” But Jesus said to him, “**No one**, having put his hand to the plow, and **looking back**, is fit for the kingdom of God.”” Luke 9:61-62 NKJV

(2) Who else has the words of eternal life?

- (a) “**No one can come to Me unless** the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.” John 6:44 NKJV
- (b) “Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless you eat the flesh** of the Son of Man **and drink His blood**, you have no life in you.” John 6:53 NKJV
- (c) “Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, “**This is a hard saying; who can understand it?**”
- [What is the proper understanding? Suffer with Him**

and die to self!] When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, “Does this offend you?” John 6:60-61 NKJV

- (d) “But there are some of you who do not believe.” For **Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe**, and who would betray Him. And He said, “Therefore I have said to you that **no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father [to hear My voice!].**” John 6:64-65 NKJV
- (e) “**From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.** Then Jesus said to the twelve, “**Do you also want to go away?**” But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, **to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ,** the Son of the living God.”” John 6:66-69 NKJV
- (3) Large Crowds Followed Him! Because where He went, miracles followed!
- (a) “And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. **Then His fame** went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who

were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them. **Great multitudes followed Him**—from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.” Matthew 4:23-25 NKJV

1. “When He had come down from the mountain, **great multitudes followed Him.**” Matthew 8:1 NKJV
2. “But when Jesus knew it, He withdrew from there. And **great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all.**” Matthew 12:15 NKJV
3. **Feeding the 5000:**
 - a) “When Jesus heard it, He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself. But **when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him** on foot from the cities. And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.” Matthew 14:13-14 NKJV
 - b) “**But when the multitudes knew it, they followed Him;** and He received them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who had need of healing.” Luke 9:11 NKJV

- c) “Then a **great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed** on those who were diseased.” John 6:2 NKJV
4. “Now it happened, as He was dining in Levi’s house, that many **tax collectors and sinners** also sat together with Jesus and His disciples; for there were **many, and they followed Him.**” Mark 2:15 NKJV
5. “But Jesus withdrew with His disciples to the sea. And a **great multitude from Galilee followed Him, and from Judea**” Mark 3:7 NKJV
6. “And behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jairus by name. And when he saw Him, he fell at His feet and begged Him earnestly, saying, “My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live.” **So Jesus went with him, and a great multitude followed Him and thronged Him.**” Mark 5:22-24 NKJV
- (4) After healing the centurion’s servant...
- (a) “When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him, and turned around and **said to the crowd that followed Him,** “I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!”” Luke 7:9 NKJV

- (5) After healing two blind men...
- (a) "They said to Him, "Lord, that our eyes may be opened." So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. **And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.**" Matthew 20:33-34 NKJV
- (6) After healing blind Bartimaeus
- (a) "So Jesus answered and said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" The blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, that I may receive my sight." Then Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." **And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.**" Mark 10:51-52 NKJV
- (7) After healing a blind man...
- (a) "Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." **And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him,** glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God." Luke 18:42-43 NKJV
- (8) Following to be healed, not because they were healed
- (a) "When Jesus departed from there, **two blind men followed Him,** crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!"" Matthew 9:27 NKJV
- (9) Following him to fulfill a destiny

- (a) **Between His betrayal in the garden and His trial before the Sanhedrin:** “Now a certain **young man followed Him, having a linen cloth** thrown around his naked body. And the young men laid hold of him, and he left the linen cloth and fled from them naked.” Mark 14:51-52 NKJV
- (10) Following Him will not be comfortable...
- (a) “Then a certain scribe came and said to Him, “Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.” And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, **but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”**”
Matthew 8:19-20 NKJV [Luke 9:57-58]
- (11) Following Him...NOT man!
- (a) “For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe’s household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, **“I am of Paul,” or “I am of Apollos,” or “I am of Cephas,” or “I am of Christ.”** Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?” I Corinthians 1:11-13 NKJV
- (12) Imitate me as I imitate Christ, so you can become examples to all...

(a) “**Imitate me**, just as I also **imitate Christ**.” I Corinthians 11:1 NKJV

(b) “And you became **followers of us and of the Lord**, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, **so that you became examples** to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.” I Thessalonians 1:6-7 NKJV

E. The Cost of Discipleship

(1) What does it take to be a disciple?

(a) “Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, “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**. And **whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple**. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it — lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish’? Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with

twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. So likewise, **whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.**" Luke 14:25-33 NKJV

(b) **"Salt is good; but if the salt has lost its flavor,** how shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land **nor for the dunghill,** but men throw it out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" Luke 14:34-35 NKJV

(2) Deny yourself and take up your cross—DAILY

(a) **Luke:** "Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him **deny himself, and take up his cross daily,** and follow Me. **For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.** For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?" Luke 9:23-25 NKJV

(b) **Mark:** "When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, **"Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.** For what will it profit a

man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? **For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.**” Mark 8:34-38
NKJV

(3) Not peace, but a sword...

(a) “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. **I did not come to bring peace but a sword.** For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’ He who loves father 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.** And **he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.** He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.” Matthew 10:34-39 NKJV

(4) I no longer live...

(a) “I have been crucified with Christ; **it is no longer I who live,** but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live

in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." Galatians 2:20 NKJV

(5) If you want to be perfect...

(a) **Matthew:** "Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, **what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"** So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, " 'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' " The young man said to Him, **"All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?"** Jesus said to him, **"If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."** But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions." Matthew 19:16-22 NKJV [Also Mark 10:17-22; Luke 18:18-22]

(6) Let the dead bury the dead & don't look back!

(a) "Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, **"Lord, I will follow You wherever**

You go.” And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” Then He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “**Lord, let me first go and bury my father.**” Jesus said to him, “**Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.**” And another also said, “**Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.**” But Jesus said to him, “**No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.**”” Luke 9:57-62 NKJV

- (7) Unless the seed falls in the ground and dies...that is what it takes to serve Him!
- (a) “Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast. Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus. But Jesus answered them, saying, “The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it,**

and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.” John 12:20-26 NKJV

(8) Peter’s denial; Peter restored—Again, “Follow Me!” (Oh, and you will die doing it!)

(a) **Denial:** “Simon Peter said to Him, “**Lord, where are You going?**” Jesus answered him, “**Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you shall follow Me afterward.**” Peter said to Him, “**Lord, why can I not follow You now?** I will lay down my life for Your sake.” Jesus answered him, “**Will you lay down your life for My sake?** Most assuredly, I say to you, the rooster shall not crow till **you have denied Me three times.**” John 13:36-38 NKJV

(b) **Restored:** “So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Feed My lambs.” He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Tend My sheep.” He

said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, **"Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You."** Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep. Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but **when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish.**" This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. **And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."**" John 21:15-19 NKJV

(9) Tested when following Him

- (a) "Now when He got into a boat, **His disciples followed Him.** And suddenly **a great tempest** arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!"
Matthew 8:23-25 NKJV

(10) Do you know what I have done?

- (a) "So when **He had washed their feet**, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, **"Do you know what I have done to you?** You call Me

Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, **you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.**" John 13:12-15 NKJV

F. The Payoff

(1) We've left it all...now what?

(a) **"Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?"**" Matthew 19:27 NKJV

1. **You who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel!** "Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you **that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.** And again I say to you, it is **easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle** than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Then Peter answered and said to Him, **"See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?"** So

Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, **you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.** And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.” Matthew 19:23-30 NKJV

(2) What profit is it to a man?

(a) “Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. **For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?** Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” Matthew 16:24-26 NKJV

(3) Mark gives a tad bit more detail...

(a) “For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life **for My sake and the gospel’s** will save it.” Mark 8:35 NKJV

- (4) What profit is it? ...the payoff!
- (a) “For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then **He will reward each according to his works.** “Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.””
Matthew 16:27-28 NKJV
- (5) The Forgiven Woman—He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life!
- (a) “When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?” She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.” Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. **He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.**”” John 8:10-12 NKJV
- (6) The Payoff—a hundredfold of what you gave up!
- (a) “Then Peter began to say to Him, “See, we have left all and followed You.” So Jesus answered and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, **for My sake and the gospel’s,** who

shall not receive **a hundredfold now in this time—** houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—**and in the age to come**, eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”” Mark 10:28-31 NKJV

1. Luke 18:28-30 says “many times more in this present time, and in the age...”

(7) The Payoff—Power and Authority

- (a) **Over unclean spirits and disease:** “And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, **He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.** Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.” Matthew 10:1-4 NKJV
- (b) **Snakes and Scorpions:** “Behold, I give you the **authority** to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the **power** of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.” Luke 10:19 NKJV

Summary: MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE

1. The multiple sounds of the two silver trumpets in the wilderness are perfectly indicative of God's still small voice as He leads us ever so specifically.
2. Oftentimes, it is not in the hurricane, not in the earthquake, and not in the fire that He speaks, but instead in the whispers.
3. If you are in doubt that you can hear Him, know this! "His sheep hear His voice, and He knows them, and they follow Him."
4. It is the Father who reveals things (through the Spirit). You cannot even come to Him unless the Father draws you!
5. You cannot count on flesh and blood!
6. Large Crowds Followed Him! Because where He went, miracles followed!
7. Miracles drew people to Christ and they followed Him, and then they started following Him looking for miracles.
8. Following Him will not be comfortable.
9. There is a great cost of discipleship...Even your own life, so deny yourself and take up your cross—DAILY
10. You will be tested when following Him; just imitate Him along the way!
11. You left it all behind, now what...The Payoff!
 - (a) He will reward each according to his works.

- (b) He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life!
- (c) A hundredfold of what you gave up!
- (d) Power and Authority

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. In some way or another, if you are a follower of Y'shua the Messiah (Jesus Christ), you have experienced His words, "Follow Me."**
 - A. Describe what that was like for you.
 - B. What did you have to leave behind?
 - C. What have you gained instead?
- 2. There are a number of biblical accounts in which we see Y'shua direct those exact words, "Follow Me", to those He was calling. Describe each of the following instances and their reactions:**
 - A. Andrew, Philip and Nathanael (John 1:35-51)
 - B. Matthew the tax collector (Mark 2:13-17)
 - C. Peter, Andrew, James and John (Matthew 4:18-22)
 - D. The scribe and disciple (Matthew 8:18-22)
 - E. The rich young ruler (Matthew 19:16-22)
 - F. Peter (Matthew 19:27-30)

G. Two followers (Luke 9:57-62)

3. In the Book of Numbers, it seems we are seeing the precise foreshadowing of Christ's words, "Follow Me!" Describe how this showed up in...

A. ...the cloud by day and fire by night over the Tabernacle in Numbers 9:15-23.

B. ...the blowing of the two silver trumpets in Numbers 10:1-10.

4. In the end, following Him comes with a cost, but yields immeasurable benefits:

A. What does it take to become a disciple?

B. What does it mean to take up your cross daily?

5. Imagine your life if you were to do as the first disciples did. How would this verse play out in your life?

A. "When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him." Luke 5:11