



Portion:

## SCRIPTURES

- Matthew 8-9
- John 6, 11
- Luke 8:40-56

Title:

## LET THE DEAD BURY THE DEAD

- Matthew 8 Debrief
- Matthew 9 Debrief
- Excuses and Reasons

*Water finds the path of least resistance. Want proof? Just place a barrier into any stream, and the water will simply find the easy way around it. It won't first choose to climb over the barrier. It would only do that if its path is blocked completely, otherwise it takes the way of least opposition. Pour water on any flat surface and it seeks to descend into every crack and indentation. Water would rather go lower than sit on top.*

*Disciples, unfortunately, cannot take the same easy way around as does water. When obstacles block their progress, disciples must choose to stay on top, to take the high ground; they must opt for the hard road. In fact, Y'shua often separated Himself and moved to higher ground, or to the other side of the sea, or He delivered an impossible message, just to separate who would follow from those who would take the path of least resistance. The journey of a disciple begins with some miraculous encounter with the Lord and then moves to this phase; "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go." And then Y'shua challenges your offer with some version of this; "Okay, let's get started! Here is what you can expect as one of My followers; it will be a life of zero possessions, zero comfort, zero security and zero certainty. Still want to follow?"*

*And, as soon as it does not appear to be all sunshine and rainbows, too often the would-be follower reacts with some form of excuse: I'm coming, but let me go check my work schedule first; or let me get the approval of my wife; or let me calculate the current valuation of my stock portfolio; or let me evaluate the condition of my business ventures, so I can determine if it's a good time for me. Note to self: it's NEVER a good time!*

*Other times the disciple-to-be bypasses the "I'll get back to you phase" altogether, and just fast-tracks his excuse, conceding quickly to his wind-blown thinking, "Thank you, but no thank you; I changed my mind." It's a life of excuses that fuels the easy way around, rather than a life of reasons; reasons to energize a leap over the barrier; or reasons to empower knocking it down; or reasons to simply exercise the patience necessary to wait in front of it, until it crumbles before your faith.*

*Then there are those who do jump right in, but when it gets challenging, that is when they change their minds; their past life starts to look so good again. As such, they return to their old ways and never look back. Others have even convinced themselves that they really did choose to follow, only to realize when pressed that they never actually joined in the first place. They are easily exposed as being completely unprepared when asked, "Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?" Such a question leaves them speechless. If that is you, things will end very badly.*

*I guess the question remains, "Which type of 'disciple' are you?" When He says, "Follow Me into a life of zero possessions, zero comfort, zero security and zero certainty!" do you tell Him you will get back to Him after you check your schedule; that you might have some dead bodies to bury. Or do you say, "Lord, to whom else shall I go? You are the only One with the words of eternal life." And for good doctrine's sake, let's make this clear; the only true disciple is the one who sees "zero" as a perfectly acceptable option!*

## PROPHETIC SEED:

“And **when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a command to depart** to the other side. 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.”** Then another of His disciples said to Him, **“Lord, let me first go and bury my father.”** **But Jesus said to him, “Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”**”  
Matthew 8:18-22 NKJV

## PROPHETIC FRUIT:

“Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, **“This is a hard saying; who can understand it?”**” John 6:60 NKJV

“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

## MATTHEW 8 DEBRIEF

### 1. ...as a testimony to them!

#### A. Y’shua Cleanses a Leper

(1) The LAW attached to the FAITH!

(a) Immediately after the Sermon on the Mount...

1. **“When He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him.** And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.” Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, “I am willing; be cleansed.” Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. And Jesus said to him, **“See that you tell no one; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”**” Matthew 8:1-4 NKJV

(2) This should now make more sense than ever!

(a) Y’shua came to fulfill the law!

1. “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy **but to fulfill.**”  
Matthew 5:17 NKJV

(b) The Law Concerning Leprosy (Read Leviticus 13-14)

1. ““When a man has on the skin of his body a swelling, a scab, or a bright spot, and it becomes on the skin of his body like a leprous sore, **then he shall be brought to Aaron the priest or to one of his sons the priests.**” Leviticus 13:2 NKJV
2. “Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “This shall be the law of the leper for the day of his cleansing: **He shall be brought to the priest.** And the priest shall go out of the camp, and the priest shall examine him; and indeed, if the leprosy is healed in the leper, **then the priest shall command to take for him who is to be cleansed two living and clean birds,** cedar wood, scarlet, and hyssop.” Leviticus 14:1-4 NKJV

3. "And he [Naaman] returned to the man of God [Elisha], he and all his aides, and came and stood before him; and he said, "Indeed, **now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel**; now therefore, please take a gift from your servant." II Kings 5:15 NKJV

## **B. Y'shua Heals a Centurion's Servant**

### (1) A Man Under Authority

#### (a) Such great faith...

1. "Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, "**Lord**, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." And Jesus said to him, "**I will come and heal him.**" The centurion answered and said, "**Lord, I am not worthy** that You should come under my roof. **But only speak** a word, and my servant will be healed. For **I also am a man under authority**, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." **When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!** And I say to you that **many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.** But the **sons of the kingdom** will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Then Jesus said to the centurion, "**Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.**" And his servant was healed that same hour." Matthew 8:5-13 NKJV

### (2) The Bigger Underlying Message

#### (a) Israel (the sons) will reject the Messiah and the Gentiles will come to the faith!

1. ""And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; **For the Gentiles shall seek Him**, And His resting place shall be glorious."" Isaiah 11:10 NKJV
2. ""I, the Lord, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, **As a light to the Gentiles**, To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the prison, Those who sit in darkness from the prison house." Isaiah 42:6-7 NKJV
3. "Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; **I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles**, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.' "" Isaiah 49:6 NKJV
4. ""For I know their works and their thoughts. It shall be that **I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come and see My glory.** I will set a sign among them; and those among them who escape I will send to the nations: to Tarshish and Pul and Lud, who draw the bow, and Tubal and Javan, **to the coastlands afar off who have not heard My fame nor seen My glory. And they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles.**" Isaiah 66:18-19 NKJV
5. ""Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For **you travel land and sea to win one proselyte**, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves." Matthew 23:15 NKJV
6. ""The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and **they [Israel] were not willing to come.**" Matthew 22:2-3 NKJV

7. "Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, **but those who were invited [Israel] were not worthy.** Therefore **go into the highways, and as many as you find [Gentiles], invite to the wedding.**"  
Matthew 22:8-9 NKJV
8. "But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they are not all Israel who are of Israel, {32} What shall we say then? **That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness,** even the righteousness of faith; but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone." Romans 9:6, 30-32 NKJV
9. "I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, **salvation has come to the Gentiles.** Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! {17} And if some of **the branches were broken off [the sons],** and you, being a wild olive tree [the Gentiles], were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, {20} Well said. Because of unbelief **they [the sons] were broken off,** and **you [the Gentiles] stand by faith.** Do not be haughty, but fear. {23} And they also, **if they [the sons] do not continue in unbelief,** will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. For **if you [the Gentiles] were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature,** and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, **who are natural branches [the sons], be grafted into their own olive tree?** For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel **until the fullness of the Gentiles** has come in." Romans 11:11-12, 17, 20, 23-25 NKJV

### **C. Peter's Mother-in-Law Healed**

(1) One touch

(a) Peter's mother-in-law was sick...

1. "Now when Jesus had come into Peter's house, He saw his wife's mother lying sick with a fever. **So He touched her hand,** and the fever left her. And she arose and served them." Matthew 8:14-15 NKJV

### **D. Many Others Healed**

(1) Prophecy Fulfilled

(a) Many who were demon-possessed and sick were healed

1. "When evening had come, **they brought to Him many** who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, **that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet,** saying: "He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses."" Matthew 8:16-17 NKJV
2. "Surely **He has borne our griefs** And **carried our sorrows;** Yet we esteemed Him stricken, **Smitten by God, and afflicted.** But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed." Isaiah 53:4-5 NKJV

### **E. The Cost of Discipleship**

(1) "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go."

(a) Will you?

1. “And **when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a command to depart** to the other side. 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.”** Then another of His disciples said to Him, **“Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” But Jesus said to him, “Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”**” Matthew 8:18-22 NKJV

#### F. The Wind and Waves Obey Y’shua

(1) “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?”

(a) Where is your faith?

1. **“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!”** But He said to them, **“Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?”** Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. So **the men marveled, saying, “Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”**” Matthew 8:23-27 NKJV

(2) “Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”

(a) They should have known!

1. “Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? **Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment?** Who has established all the ends of the earth? **What is His name, and what is His Son’s name, If you know?**” Proverbs 30:4 NKJV
2. “For behold, He who forms mountains, **And creates the wind,** Who declares to man what his thought is, And makes the morning darkness, Who treads the high places of the earth— The Lord God of hosts is His name.” Amos 4:13 NKJV

#### G. Two Demon-Possessed Men Healed

(1) Even the demons believe and tremble!

(a) Demons and Pigs

1. “When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him **two demon-possessed men**, coming out of the tombs, **exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass** that way. And suddenly they cried out, saying, **“What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?”** Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. So the demons begged Him, saying, **“If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine.”** And He said to them, “Go.” So when they had come out, **they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water.** Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and **told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men.** And behold, **the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart** from their region.” Matthew 8:28-34 NKJV

MATTHEW 9 DEBRIEF

2. ...that you may know the Son of Man!

## A. Y'shua Forgives and Heals a Paralytic

(1) "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you."

(a) The Power to Forgive Sins...

1. "So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. Then behold, **they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed.** When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "**Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.**" And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "**This Man blasphemes!**" But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "**Why do you think evil in your hearts?** For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." And he arose and departed to his house. Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men." Matthew 9:1-8 NKJV
2. "As in water face reflects face, **So a man's heart reveals the man.**" Proverbs 27:19 NKJV
3. "...For **out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.**" Luke 6:45 NKJV
4. "For **where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**" Matthew 6:21 NKJV
5. "**If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.**" John 20:23 NKJV

(2) Luke's Version in (Luke 5:17-26) includes some other fabulous details...

(a) The level of faith they had that he would be healed... "*they did not simply bring to Him a paralytic lying on a bed...*"

1. "*And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, **they went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus.***" Luke 5:19 NKJV

(b) Luke shows us another detail of what the Pharisees (not just scribes) were thinking...

1. "*And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, 'Who is this who speaks blasphemies? **Who can forgive sins but God alone?**' But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, 'Why are you reasoning in your hearts?'" Luke 5:21-22 NKJV*

(3) More Prophecy in Action

(a) Then the lame shall leap like a deer...

1. "Strengthen the weak hands, **And make firm the feeble knees.** Say to those who are fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, With the recompense of God; He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. **Then the lame shall leap like a deer,** And the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert." Isaiah 35:3-6 NKJV

## B. Matthew the Tax Collector

(1) "Follow Me."

(a) Would you give up everything?

1. "As Jesus passed on from there, **He saw a man named Matthew** sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "**Follow Me.**" So he arose and followed Him. Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, **many tax collectors and sinners** came and sat down with Him and His disciples.

And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, **“Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”** When Jesus heard that, He said to them, **“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’ For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”** Matthew 9:9-13 NKJV

2. *“For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, And the **knowledge of God** more than burnt offerings.”* Hosea 6:6 NKJV

### C. **Y’shua Questioned about Fasting**

(1) “Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?”

(a) Because it is not yet time to mourn!

1. “Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, **“Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?”** And Jesus said to them, **“Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast. No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and the tear is made worse. Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.”** Matthew 9:14-17 NKJV
2. **Will you marry Me?** *“Now therefore, **if you will** indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, **then you shall be** a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. **And you shall be** to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.” So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the Lord commanded him. **[We do!]** **Then all the people answered together and said, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do.”** So Moses brought back the words of the people to the Lord.” Exodus 19:5-8 NKJV*
3. “For in this we groan, earnestly **desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven**, if indeed, having been clothed, **we shall not be found naked.**” II Corinthians 5:2-3 NKJV
4. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.**” II Corinthians 5:17 NKJV

### D. **A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed**

(1) “Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well.”

(a) One Touch of and from the Master...

1. “While He spoke these things to them, behold, a ruler came and worshiped Him, saying, **“My daughter has just died, but come and lay Your hand on her and she will live.”** So Jesus arose and followed him, and so did His disciples. And **suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment.** For **she said to herself, “If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well.”** But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, **“Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well.”** And the woman was made well from that hour. When Jesus came into the ruler’s house, and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd wailing, He said to them, **“Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping.”** And **they ridiculed Him.** But when the crowd was





**sheep having no shepherd.** Then He said to His disciples, **“The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”** Matthew 9:35-38 NKJV

(2) New Shepherds

(a) They are about to be sent (in Matthew 10)!

1. **“But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”** Matthew 10:6-7 NKJV
2. **“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.”** Matthew 10:1 NKJV

(b) Ultimate Shepherds!

1. **“Shepherd the flock** of God which is among you, serving as **overseers**, not by **compulsion** but **willingly**, not for **dishonest gain** but **eagerly**; **nor as being Lords** over those entrusted to you, but **being examples to the flock**; and when the **Chief Shepherd** appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.” I Peter 5:2-4 NKJV

(c) Those negligent shepherd will be removed and replaced as prophesied by Jeremiah!

1. **““Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!”** says the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: **“You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them.** Behold, **I will attend to you for the evil of your doings,**” says the Lord. **“But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds;** and they shall be fruitful and increase. **I will set up shepherds over them** who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking,” says the Lord.” Jeremiah 23:1-4 NKJV

## EXCUSES AND REASONS

### 3. It's Now or Never!

#### A. Options: Four Types of Soil

(1) “Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.” (Mat. 8:19)

(a) The Cost of Discipleship

1. **“And when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a command to depart** to the other side. 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.”** Then another of His disciples said to Him, **“Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” But Jesus said to him, “Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”**” Matthew 8:18-22 NKJV

(2) One call...Many Responses (connected to sermon intro!)

(a) Read the Parable of the Sower/Soils (Mat. 13:1-9; 18-23)

1. Soil One—by the wayside: **“When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.”** Matthew 13:19 NKJV

2. Soil Two—on stony places: “But **he who received the seed on stony places**, this is he who **hears the word and immediately receives it with joy**; yet he has **no root in himself**, but endures only for a while. For **when tribulation or persecution arises** because of the word, immediately **he stumbles.**” Matthew 13:20-21 NKJV
3. Soil Three—among the thorns: “Now he who **received seed among the thorns** is he who **hears the word, and the cares of this world** and the **deceitfulness of riches choke the word**, and he becomes unfruitful.” Matthew 13:22 NKJV
4. Soil Four—on good ground: “But he who received **seed on the good ground** is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed **bears fruit** and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.” Matthew 13:23 NKJV

## **B. Higher Ground; Hard to Follow; Excuses & Reasons!**

### (1) Separating from the Masses

#### (a) Higher Ground

1. “And when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, **He gave a command to depart to the other side.**” Matthew 8:18 NKJV

#### (b) Hard to Follow

1. “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

#### (c) Excuses

1. “Then another of His disciples said to Him, “**Lord, let me first go and bury my father.**” But Jesus said to him, “Follow Me, and **let the dead bury their own dead.**”” Matthew 8:21-22 NKJV

#### (d) Reasons

1. “Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, **she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him** and how she was healed immediately.” Luke 8:47 NKJV

### (2) Hard to Follow!

#### (a) “For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.”

1. “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) “Whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”

1. “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.** "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 14:25-35 NKJV

(c) "Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor."

1. Mark: one thing you lack... "Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "**One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.**" But he was sad at this word, and **went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.**" Mark 10:21-22 NKJV
2. Luke: distribute to the poor... "So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "**You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.**" But when he heard this, he **became very sorrowful, for he was very rich.**" Luke 18:22-23 NKJV
3. Matthew: if you want to be perfect... "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 19:21-22 NKJV

(3) A journey through John 6...

(a) Higher Ground

1. "After these things Jesus **went over the Sea of Galilee**, which is the Sea of Tiberias. **Then a great multitude followed Him**, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased. And Jesus **went up on the mountain**, and there He sat with His disciples." John 6:1-3 NKJV
2. "*Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?*" John 5:45-47 NKJV
  - a) As He does often, he departs for higher ground right before the epic feeding of the 5000.

(b) Higher Ground

1. "Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, **He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.** Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, got into the boat, **and went over the sea toward Capernaum.** And it was already dark, and Jesus had not come to them." John 6:15-17 NKJV

(c) Seeking Him on Higher Ground

1. "On the following day, when the people who were standing on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other boat there, except that one which His disciples had entered, **and that Jesus had not entered the boat with His disciples**, but His disciples had gone away alone— however, other boats came

from Tiberias, [to a spot] near the place where they ate bread after the Lord had given thanks— when the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, nor **His disciples, they also got into boats and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, “Rabbi, when did You come here?”**” John 6:22-25 NKJV

- (d) “Rabbi, when did You come here?” (One of those Truly, Truly moments! (See: [Six Degrees of Separation](#))
1. “Jesus answered them and said, “Most assuredly [truly, truly], **I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.** Do not labor for the food which perishes, **but for the food which endures to everlasting life,** which the Son of Man will give you, because God **the Father has set His seal on Him.**” Then they said to Him, **“What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?”** Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you **believe in Him whom He sent.**” Therefore they said to Him, **“What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do?** Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’ ” Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, **Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.**” Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.” And Jesus said to them, **“I am the bread of life.** He who comes to Me shall **never hunger,** and he who believes in Me shall **never thirst.** But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. **All that the Father gives Me will come to Me,** and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of the Father who sent Me, **that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing,** but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may **have everlasting life;** and I will raise him up at the last day.”” John 6:26-40 NKJV
- (e) From Hard to Follow to HARD to follow (strap in, He is about to upend everything).
1. “The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, **“I am the bread which came down from heaven.”** And they said, **“Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know?** How is it then that He says, ‘I have come down from heaven?’” Jesus therefore answered and said to them, “Do not murmur among yourselves. **No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him;** and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. **I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.**” The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, **“How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?”** 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. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will**

raise him up at the last day. **For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. This is the bread** which came down from heaven—**not as your fathers ate** the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever.”

These things He said in the synagogue as **He taught in Capernaum.**” John 6:41-59 NKJV

(f) “This is a hard saying; who can understand it?”

1. “Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, **“This is a hard saying; who can understand it?”** When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, **“Does this offend you? What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before? It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing.** The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. **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.” **From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.** John 6:60-66 NKJV

### C. The Excuses

(1) Excuses separate true-disciples from pretend-disciples

(a) The Great Banquet—An exercise in separation...

1. “Now when one of those who sat at the table with Him heard these things, he said to Him, **“Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!”** Then He said to him, “A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, **‘Come, for all things are now ready.’** **But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him,** ‘I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.’ **And another said,** ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.’ **Still another said,** ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ So that servant came and reported these things to his master. **Then the master of the house, being angry,** said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.’ And the servant said, ‘Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.’ Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. **For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.’**” Luke 14:15-24 NKJV

(b) The Wedding Feast—An exercise in separation...

1. “And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were **invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come.** Again, he sent out other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. **Come to the wedding.”**’ **But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them.** But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and

burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, **'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy.** Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' **So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good.** And the wedding hall was filled with guests. "But when the king came in to see the guests, **he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment.** So he said to him, **'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?'** And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' **"For many are called, but few are chosen."** Matthew 22:1-14 NKJV

#### **D. The Reasons**

(1) Reasons separate true-disciples from pretend-disciples

(a) One Touch—An exercise in separation...

1. "So it was, when Jesus returned, that the multitude welcomed Him, for they were all waiting for Him. And behold, there came **a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue.** And he fell down at Jesus' feet and begged Him to come to his house, for he had an only **daughter about twelve years of age,** and she was dying. But as He went, the multitudes thronged Him. Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, **who had spent all her livelihood on physicians** and could not be healed by any, came from behind and touched the border of His garment. **And immediately her flow of blood stopped.** And **Jesus said, "Who touched Me?"** When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, "Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?' " But Jesus said, **"Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me."** Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, **she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately.** And He said to her, **"Daughter,** be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace." While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher." But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, **"Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well."** When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl. Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, "Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead. But He put them all outside, **took her by the hand and called, saying, "Little girl, arise." Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately.** And He **commanded that she be given something to eat.** And her parents were astonished, but He **charged them to tell no one what had happened."** Luke 8:40-56 NKJV (also Mark 5:21-43)

(b) One Hope—An exercise in separation...

1. **"But sanctify** the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you **a reason for the hope that is in you,** with meekness and fear; {16} having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, **those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.** For **it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil."** I Peter 3:15-17 NKJV

(2) The Reason—Even when your life is on the line!

- (a) "Let us go to Judea again." (Even though the last time it was very dangerous!)
1. "Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick." When Jesus heard that, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was. Then after this He said to the disciples, **"Let us go to Judea again."**" John 11:1-7 NKJV
- (b) "Let us also go, that we may die with Him."
1. "The disciples said to Him, **"Rabbi, lately the Jews sought to stone You, and are You going there again?"** Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." These things He said, and after that He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up." Then His disciples said, "Lord, if he sleeps he will get well." However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him." Then **Thomas**, who is called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, **"Let us also go, that we may die with Him."**" John 11:8-16 NKJV
- (c) It seems like an impossible choice, but... "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."
1. "And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, **"How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!** For 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." And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" But He said, **"The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."** Then Peter said, "See, we have left all and followed You." So He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, **there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life."**" Luke 18:24-30 NKJV
- (d) Back to John 6: FINAL QUESTION!
1. "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 6:67-69 NKJV