

Lifelines

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Topic: Following the Lamb

Following the Lamb!

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The more complex and complicated life becomes, the more we are drawn to simplicity. Many of us work more than forty hours a week, some of us are on call 24/7. The pace of life is becoming faster and fuller for most of us all the time. When do we take time to relax? When do we have time to sit and read, or watch a sunset? For most of us the answer is infrequently.

As a younger pastor in churches that needed to continually do new things to grow, much of my life was spent keeping up mentally with the rapid changes in culture, and trying to discern what new changes we could make to reach people caught up in continual rapid change. But life is changing so rapidly these days that by the time a church makes adjustments to be more relevant to the culture, the culture has already moved beyond what the church tried to transition to. In other words, in organizations that are caught up in that sort of thing, it is a battle that is often lost before its first adaptation.

Take computers, for example. By the time we learn how to use a new computer or phone, that model it is being phased out. My computer keeps trying to encourage me to update to newer versions of my programs, but I don't want to spend the time and money to do that. So, what is a person to do?

Simplify. Rather than being held captive to the rat-race, and feeling compelled to grab up whatever is newest, I will use my computer and laptop until I can't anymore. I don't want to chase every shiny object just because it promises to be faster, better, easier. Usually it isn't. Are we eventually going to get tired of trying to stay ahead of the change curve and say "Enough!" Is it time to slow down, maybe minister to others, and even take time to savor the moments in our lives?

When Jesus came to Earth, His message and methods were simple, yet profound. He did not build million-dollar facilities; He made use of a hillside, a meadow, the market place, or fishing boats. He took time to interact with people. He ministered to people's personal needs, and taught using parables and metaphors. His ministry was teaching, healing, and helping people to meet and get to know God.

Helping people to establish healthy interpersonal relationships with God and with one another was His prime directive. His first followers were people that He encountered and invited to "Come and follow Me!" And they did. They were amazed at the depth of His love, wisdom, and ability to convey eternal truth. Jesus helped His disciples discover how they could use their occupational gifts to use in connecting other people to Jesus. To the fishermen in Matthew 4:19 (NASB) He said: "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

We make being a disciple of Jesus so complicated. In Revelation 14:4 (NASB), one of the descriptions of God's people is: "These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes." This is a great statement! If you want to please God, follow Jesus, the Lamb, wherever He goes. Go where Jesus is going, do what Jesus is doing or tells you to do. Keep your eyes on Jesus, and the people He leads you to help and minister to. Be alert to Jesus and opportunities to impact others for Him. Follow the Lamb! Stay close to the Lamb. If He is a block ahead of you, you will find it hard to follow Him if He turns a corner. Realize that Jesus is always working, impacting others for the Father.

Let Him use you to impact others in the various scenarios that occur in your daily life. The Lamb is there, why not do what He would do?

Following the Lamb will make your daily life exciting, instead of mundane. Use your eyes to see opportunities, ask Jesus what you should do in each opportunity, then do what He conveys to you. Follow His lead. Even while doing your daily “job,” if you realize that Jesus has led you into the things happening at work, follow the Lamb. Most of the miraculous things that Jesus did occurred as He was going about His daily activities. People He saw, circumstances where He could bless someone, were opportunities to impact others for God. Your life and mine offer the same type of opportunities daily. Open your eyes and spirit and be alert to the event, and what Jesus wants to do in that event!

Following the Lamb! It is simple, yet profound!

Award-winning columnist Dr. Ed Jordan is pastor of Gwynn’s Island Baptist Church, Gwynn, VA. He can be reached at szent.edward@gmail.com. Dr. Jordan’s new book: “Doing Love! It can change your life!” can be purchased on Barnes&Noble.com or Amazon.com.