



St. Matthew's Cathedral eNews

Christ + Compassion + Community

From the Dean

Are you a Follower of Jesus?

"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.—Mark 8:34

Are you a Christian? Are you a Follower of Jesus? I believe that it is possible to be a Christian without being a follower of Jesus.

William Barclay tells the story of a college professor who was being introduced to someone, and the person said something like, "Oh, I've heard your name many times. My friend was one of your students." The professor replied, "He may have attended my lectures, but he was not one of my students." Ouch. But that is the difference between a Follower of Jesus and someone who has heard the teachings of Jesus, maybe over and over and over, yet not allowed the teaching to become life-learning—learning that transforms us from who we are in our natural state to the people that God made us to be.

The season of Lent with its fasting is designed to help us to be more intently Followers of Jesus, not just Christians. What is a Follower like?

- A Follower of Jesus *loves to hear Jesus speak, whether through the Bible, or prayer.*
- A Follower of Jesus *loves to talk to Jesus. . .often, not just at church.*
- A Follower of Jesus *loves to spend time with other Followers of Jesus, looking for the opportunity to come to worship rather than looking for reasons not to.*
- A Follower of Jesus *loves to worship him.*
- A Follower of Jesus *wants to study his words and know his way in the world.*
- A Follower of Jesus *has compassion for the poor and needy.*
- A Follower of Jesus *is generous with the resources God has given, recognizing that "All things come of Thee, and of Thine Own have we given Thee."*

Are you a Follower of Jesus?

