

# Unleashed to follow

In a world of Social media the word **FOLLOW** is very common. Famous celebrities have millions of followers on Instagram and Twitter. On these platforms, celebrities would post their opinions, flamboyant lifestyles and braggadocios ways. Some followers would be inspired and others envious. Some people follow football teams, friends, family; in fact, there are loads of things to follow out there. The subscription steps are easy; 'type the name and follow'.

It indicates that human beings have been created to follow. Whatever or whoever you follow, will take part of you.

In Mark 8:34, Jesus gives us two things to do before we follow him. He urges that anyone who would desire to follow him should pay careful attention to these things.

## 1. Let him deny himself/herself

We all have made hard sacrifices in life. Moving from a community for the sake of your family or attending a school that is far from your family for the sake of a good education, or even taking the Gospel to a difficult place and as a result, sacrificing your comfort. Whatever the situation may have been, self-denial is not only difficult; it is uncommon. We live in a world that tells us to gratify and satisfy ourselves; a world that is self-uplifting. However, Jesus gives a challenge that is counter cultural. Why is it so? It is because Jesus understands the art and principle of giving.

When you give it all, you get something back. It is not a question of 'now I am trampled and nothing will ever become of me'. Jesus knows that if we give ourselves we will get ourselves back, but if we refuse to give ourselves away, we deny ourselves from experiencing something greater than what we already have.

**What is He calling you to deny?**



a ministry of 

**And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "if anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me".**  
Mark 8:34

## 2. Follow me

In the last part of the verse, we understand that Jesus has always desired to be followed, i.e. how he calls His disciples; but the cost of following Jesus is very different from the cost of following the world. When we follow Jesus, he specifies there are certain things that we will have to take on board. It includes carrying our cross, and this means we will have to walk the way Jesus walked. If He carried the cross we will have to carry the cross, walking behind Him, in the dust of our rabbi. And following him means that we will follow all His teachings, including the teaching of taking the Gospel to all nations.

**We are unleashed to follow, follow HIM wherever he may ask us to go.**

**Unleashed**

\*to suddenly release a violent force that cannot be controlled  
\*to release from or as if from a leash  
\*to free from restraint or control  
\*Let loose, release, set free  
\*to let happen or begin something powerful that, once begun, can not be controlled.

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