

The Gospel of Matthew

"Follow Me"
Jesus' Authoritative Call
Matthew 8:18-22

Matthew 8 & 9

Authority of Jesus

- Nine "miracle stories" displaying the authority of Jesus (three groups of three)
- Two narrative interludes about discipleship – what it means to "follow Jesus"

Matthew 8:18-22

Now when Jesus saw a crowd around Him, He gave orders to depart to the other side.

And a certain scribe came and said to Him, "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go."

And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."

Matthew 8:18-22

And another of the disciples said to Him, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my Father."

But Jesus said to him, "Follow me; and allow the dead to bury their own dead."

Jesus' Authoritative Call

A. The Meaning of His Call

➤ *two things are implied...*

- submitting in faith and practice to Jesus as Savior and Lord
- joining Him in the work He was sent to do – *"to seek and save the lost"*

Jesus' Authoritative Call

B. The Nature of His Call

1. It is a costly call

- following Jesus is a call to relinquish temporal comforts and convenience
- following Jesus is a call to hardships, hatred, sacrifice, suffering

Jesus' Authoritative Call

B. The Nature of His Call

2. It is an exclusive call

- even the closest family ties must not be set above or hinder allegiance to Jesus
- the overriding priority of the disciple of Jesus is the life of the kingdom

Jesus' Authoritative Call

"Follow Me..."

1. Are you following Jesus in the way that He demands?
2. Are there any comforts or pursuits that are keeping you from following Him?