

## **EXPERIENCING the POWER of “ONE ACCORD”**

*“...they lifted up their voice to God with one accord...And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.” Acts 4:24, 31-33 (KJV)*



### ***This Week’s Thought – July 17, 2016***

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*“As they were walking along the road, a man said to Jesus, “I will follow you wherever you go.” Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.” Luke 9:57-58 (NIV)*

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As Christians, we often talk about “following Jesus,” and for good reason! This is one of the most basic and central aspects of the Christian journey; and it is impossible to be a Christian without following Christ. That being said, we must constantly be reassessing our lives and asking ourselves the hard question: are we following Jesus as He has revealed Himself in the Scriptures, or are we following a version of Jesus in which we remake Him in our own image?

If we aren’t careful, discipleship can become something that we define, that we fit into our lives in the way we want it to fit (or not fit); and we ultimately define what it is and what it isn’t. In short, instead of following Jesus wherever He may lead, we find ourselves asking Him to tag along on our journey!

Genuine followers of Jesus must always consider the cost of true discipleship. We must be willing to have our own views of discipleship reframed in light of the life and witness of Jesus. We learn how to follow Jesus when we set our eyes fully on Him and let our lives be drawn to Him and reordered around His life.

If we don’t learn who Jesus truly is and what He wants from us as His children, we will rush to say “I will follow you wherever you go!” without first considering how costly this allegiance and loyalty may be. Yes, Jesus certainly wants wholehearted devotion, but He wants us to know what wholehearted devotion truly looks like.

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As His disciples, in this life there is no guarantee of financial gain or cultural significance - none! In fact, as Luke 9 reminds us, foxes and birds have a greater guarantee of comfort and security.

Jesus cautions us against making a hasty claim of loyalty. Do not quickly rush to commit yourself to Christ if you haven’t first counted the cost. However, when you do see the beauty, love, and goodness of God shown in Jesus, rush to give your all to Him, and in so doing find the only source of meaning, hope, and peace.

**Words from the Master during your time of reflection this week:** “When you seek My Face, put aside thoughts of everything else. I Am above all, as well as in all; your communion with Me transcends both time and circumstances. Be prepared to be blessed bountifully by My Presence, for I Am a God of unlimited abundance. Open wide your heart and mind to receive more and more of Me. When your Joy in Me meets My Joy in you, there are ‘fireworks’ of heavenly delight. This is eternal life to come. Now you see only a poor reflection as in a mirror, but then you will see face to Face.” (Psalm 27:8; John 15:11; 1 Corinthians 13:12)

*“And then God answered: "Write this. Write what you see. Write it out in big block letters so that it can be read on the run. This vision-message is a witness pointing to what's coming. It aches for the coming—it can hardly wait! And it doesn't lie. If it seems slow in coming, wait. It's on its way. It will come right on time.”* Habakkuk 2:2-3 (MSG)

Yours in Christ, Pastor King