Follow the LORD

Judges 1:1-3:6

The POINT: Will you follow Jesus fully? Deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Him.

1. Courage to follow even when it’s dangerous. 1:1 – 2:5
   1. Victory. 1:1-20
      1. Ask God for guidance, 1-2
      2. Why the war?
         1. Sovereignty. It’s God’s land. He gets to choose.
         2. Holiness. God’s people are set apart.
         3. Consequence. Sin in general, and against Israel
      3. Yet, they make a pragmatic alliance, 3
      4. Yet, they copy pagan brutality, 4-7
      5. Compare godly Achsah to Delilah… 11-15
      6. Conquering the giants! 16-20
   2. The Canaanites continue living among the Israelites. 1:21-30
      1. Benjamin did not drive out, 21
      2. Joseph takes Bethel, 22-26
      3. Manasseh did not drive out, 27-28
      4. Ephraim did not drive out, 29
      5. Zebulun did not drive out, 30
   3. The Israelites live among the Canaanites. 1:31-33
      1. Asher lived among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land, 31-32
      2. Naphtali lived among the Canaanites, 33
   4. Defeat in the Land of the Amorites. 1:34-36
      1. The Amorites pressed the people of Dan, 34
      2. Israel coexists, recognizing the border, 35-36
   5. Going to Bochim. 2:1-5
      1. YHWH speaks: “I brought you up” 1
      2. “I will bever break My covenant”
      3. You made covenants with them, 2
      4. You kept their altars
      5. Your choices have consequences, 3-5
   6. What about you?
      1. Have you compromised a clear command of God?
      2. Will you engage in spiritual warfare?
      3. What perspective drives your decisions? Pragmatism?
2. Conviction to follow even when it’s different. 2:6 – 3:6
   1. The second-generation syndrome. 2:6-11
      1. Joshua served the LORD. 2:6-9
      2. Those who knew Joshua, knew the LORD. 2:7
      3. They failed to pass on that knowledge. 2:10a
      4. Not knowing God, they don’t love or serve Him. 2:10b
      5. They served the Baals. 2:11
   2. The Cycle of Judges. 2:11-23
      1. Sin, 11-13
      2. Slavery, 14-15
      3. Supplication, 15b, 18b
      4. Salvation, 16
      5. Spiral Downwards, 17-23
   3. Take the test. 3:1-6
      1. Danger and difficulty reveal your priorities, to teach and to test, 1-3
      2. What has God commanded you to do? 4
      3. Who do you love? 5-6a
      4. Who will you serve? 6b

Discussion Questions

* In what ways are you tempted to compromise your faith in Christ? What situations make this so tempting for Christians? How does God react to this?
* Why would the LORD expect a different lifestyle from you? What is He calling you to change?
* Difficult situations test us. Are you passing the test? How can a servant of God pass?