

Following Jesus

Ponder: Do you like God's word? Are you Jesus' friend? Are you Following Him?

Scripture: "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me" (Lk. 9:23 NKJV).

I have hundreds of Facebook friends. It's a mixed blessing. If you use Facebook, you know what I mean.

I receive friend requests frequently, a few from people I know, but mainly from those I don't know. Some require more careful screening than others.

Once you accept a friend request, you can see what they post on their page. Maybe it's a photo of a grandchild, or an announcement of impending surgery, or a political rant. If you appreciate what they have posted, you can click the "like" button. But if you don't want to see what they post anymore, you can "unfollow" them. Or, if it's really obnoxious, you can unfriend them.

What if Jesus sent you a friend request? In fact, He did. Through the gospel, He has invited every person to be His friend. "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you" (John 14:15).

Once you become His friend, you follow Him by observing all things He has commanded (Matt. 28:20). Think of the Scriptures as a gigantic Facebook post. Would you click the "like" button on it? More to the point, would you truly do it?

It's not wise, but it is possible to "unfollow" Jesus. Just quit reading and studying the word and stop obeying what you already know. Fortunately, you can resume following Him just as you can go back to following a Facebook friend. Do as you like with Facebook, but please follow Jesus.

It's also possible to unfriend Jesus! Paul called apostate brethren "enemies of the cross of Christ" (Phil. 3:18). Fortunately, even one who has fallen away can return to friendship with Jesus as Peter urged Simon to do (see Acts 8:22)

Are you following Jesus?

Hymn: "I'll Be A Friend To Jesus"

Prayer: Gracious Father, help us to be Jesus' friends indeed! In His name, Amen.