

OBSTACLES TO FOLLOWING CHRIST
(Matthew 8:18-22)

- I. The DISTRACTION of the Pressing CROWD (Matt. 8:18)
 - A. He was being SWARMED by a CROWD
 - B. He instructed His DISCIPLES to prepare the BOAT so they could ESCAPE the crowd (cf. Mark 4:35-36)
 - 1. The CLAMOR would be EXHAUSTING
 - 2. POPULARITY would interfere with His MISSION
 - 3. ENTHUSIASM is not the same thing as CONVERSION (cf. Luke 8:5-15)
 - 4. Prevented real MINISTRY to INDIVIDUALS

- II. The EXPECTATION of Physical COMFORT (Matt. 8:19-20)
 - A. One was a SCRIBE
 - 1. A SCHOLAR specializing in Jewish LAW
 - 2. A TEACHER, not a FOLLOWER of a teacher
 - B. He VOLUNTEERED to accompany Jesus
 - 1. He called Jesus “TEACHER”

2. He said, "I'll FOLLOW You WHEREVER You go"

C. Jesus told him the WAY would be DIFFICULT

1. They will be CONSTANTLY on the MOVE

2. They will have to PACK LIGHT and SLEEP ROUGH

III. The COMPLICATION of Personal CONCERNS (Matt. 8:21-22)

A. He's called "ANOTHER DISCIPLE"

1. "Disciples" had varying DEGREES of COMMITMENT

2. Being "another" indicates BOTH MEN were "disciples"

B. He asked to be EXCUSED so he could BURY his father

1. He may have wanted an INDEFINITE DELAY until his father DIED
and he received his INHERITANCE

2. He may have wanted a MONTH'S LEAVE for a FUNERAL and
MOURNING period

C. Jesus commanded "FOLLOW ME" and explained that His MINISTRY was
more IMPORTANT

1. The world is TRANSIENT, His Kingdom is ETERNAL

2. The GOSPEL of the Kingdom is more URGENT than temporal
concerns

D. The COST of discipleship is HIGH

1. Jesus was not recruiting ALL He could FIND

2. Jesus was CALLING all who were HIS