



Following the Leader ***Dan Jenkins***

I remember a game I played as a child, but I am not sure what it was called. I think it was called “Follow the Leader,” where one child became the leader and whatever he did had to be exactly duplicated in all those other children who were following the leader. If he jumped, they jumped. If he turned in a circle, they turned in a circle. If he walked backwards, they walked backwards. If he did all three in an immediate sequence, they did all three. Following the Leader

There is serious application of this game in the lives of those early Christians. Paul came to Thessalonica as part of the “Macedonian Call” and went first to Philippi and then to Thessalonica. He was only there three weeks before tremendous persecution forced him to leave. He came back there often for several years. In his first letter to that church, Paul spoke of what had happened as the church began. “And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit” (1 Thess. 1:6).

For the first time, these people in Macedonia met a follower of Jesus. He taught them, and they saw the way he lived what he taught. They followed him. They had worshiped images made by the hands of mortals which were embellished with gold and precious stones. Paul taught them about the One who created these very stones, and they “...turned to God

from idols to serve the living and true God" (1 Thess. 1:9). What they had seen and heard from the apostle caused them to follow him. Look at verse 6 again. They followed Paul, but he taught them more. They became followers of Paul and "of the Lord." The apostle diverted their focus from him and focused it on the Lord, the One who really matters.

The Greek word for "follower" (mimos) became a word we commonly use today. They saw the folly of idolatry and began to "mimic" Paul and Jesus. Paul was not seeking to become an iconic apostolic hero. He taught them what he taught those in Corinth. "Imitate (mimos) me just as I also imitate Christ" (1 Cor. 11:1). He is the One to follow!

Paul described the lives of these new Christians in this way. "For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus" (1 Thess. 2:14). I will never forget how this verse was taught to the people of Easter Island. Josh Blackmer said, "We have come to this island to ask the people to become followers of 'churches of God which are in' the Bible. The Bible describes that church, and Jesus wants us to read about it and be followers of the Lord as seen in that church."

Read about the Lord. Then become one who mimics the One who really matters!

Congregational News & Notes

Prayer Requested

Members

Mary Bolen, Luther & Jo Merritt
Ron and Nadine McDonald,
Sandra Epperson, Sue Harris
Freddie Stewart, Cindy Kidder,
Roberta Donaldson, Lisa Dukes,
Doug Crouse, Freddie Callis,
Margie Montgomery,
Betty Mosely, Teriyaki Anderson
James Morris, Freeman Kidder,
Andy Vaughn, Pearl Johnson,
Paula Wadley, Judy Ellis
Jerry Crabb, Karen Chance,
Mary Lewis, Roberta Donaldson
Gaylon & Betty Cooper,
Sammy Puckett

Friends & Family

Horace Yearwood, Shirley Bolin,
Beverly Martindale,
Glenn & Trudy Lovell,
Gladys Gowan, Diane Hubbard,
Brandi Rogers, Corey Allen
Kenton Lancaster, Roger Callis,
Caraline Rogers
Justin Puckett, Ruby Malone,
Jane Washington, Betty Green

Today's Sermons

AM - True Worship
Includes Giving
1 Corinthians 16:1-2

PM - The Lord Loads His
People Daily with Benefits
Psalm 68:19

Happenings

South Jackson

March 16

Men's Business Meeting

March 30

5th Sunday Fellowship Meal
Evening Service will be at 1:00

Cards to Send

Ronald Clouse
190 Mifflin Road
Jackson, TN 38301

Sammy Puckett
144 Shadow Creek Lane
Medina, TN 38355

Weekly Record

6 AM	5
Bible Class	52/0
AM Worship	78/13
PM Worship	50/10
Wed Bible Study	45/12
Contribution	5859
Budget	4014

Those Privileged to Serve

Mar 9 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - R. Clouse, R Pack

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Read Scripture:

Jonathan Orr

Opening Prayer:

Joe Venable

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Carleton Kidder

Communion: Greg Long

Contribution:

Jeff Bliss

Mar 16 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - P. Hatcher, J. Butcher

Lead Singing: John Smith

Read Scripture:

Costel Ghimpu

Opening Prayer:

Greg Long

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Jerry Crabb

Communion: Marion Thomas

Contribution:

Charlie Richardson

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: John Smith

Opening Prayer:

Mike Wages

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Jerry Butcher

Communion: Greg Long

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Joe Venable

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Ronald Clouse

Communion: Mike Wages

Mar 12 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: John Smith

Opening Prayer:

Paul Hatcher

Devo - Mike Wages

Mar 19 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Ray Pack

Devo - Greg Long

South Jackson Church of Christ

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Medon, TN

(731) 424-9721

Minister: Ray Pack

rpack119@gmail.com

(731) 437-9501

Service Times

Early Worship	6:00 AM
Gospel of Christ - WBBJ	5:00 AM
Sunday Bible Class	9:30 AM
Sunday AM Worship	10:30 AM
Sunday PM Worship	5:00 PM
Midweek Bible Study	6:30 PM