

**THE SOWER
ARTHUR (ii) CHURCH OF CHRST
Ron Bartanen, Evangelist**

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Have you visited our web site lately? (www.Arthurcoc.com)

JESUS CALLS US

“**Follow thou me**” (John 21:22b) were the words of Jesus, spoken to His disciples even after they had been following Him through 3 ½ years of His ministry. The call of Jesus is more than a one-time calling. It is nothing short of a calling to a lifelong commitment.

Life is full of calls. As long as we are in this world we receive calls from various sources. Early in life we are called to get an education. This is soon followed by a series of calls-- to get a job, make money, marry, have children, seek cultural advantages, serve our country, please loved ones, have a good time, etc. These are calls largely from the heart and flesh. But the grandest and clearest of all calls is the call of Jesus, heard by listening ears yet today—“**Follow thou me.**”

Since Jesus is no longer in the flesh here on earth, but has ascended to the Father in heaven, His call to us is not personally delivered, but is through His Gospel. Paul wrote, “He called you by our gospel to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Thessalonians 2:14). Friend, have you responded to His call? The call of the Lord was important enough for Him to leave heaven for you, and eventually to die for your sins. Is it important enough for you to heed His call, trusting in Him as your Savior, and committing your life to Him by repentance, confession of faith and baptism (Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-4, 17; 10:9-11)?

If you have at one time responded to His call in this manner, be reminded that He does not cease to call. As we mentioned earlier, it was after 3 ½ years of companying with Christ that He found it necessary to repeat His call to His disciples. He calls us daily to faithful commitment to Him and His cause. Hear Him afresh, as He speaks to you: “**Follow thou me.**”
--Ron

THINK ABOUT IT—

- **Anger** is a condition in which the tongue works faster than the mind.
- **What if** you woke up today with only the things you thanked God for yesterday?
- **The fall of a leaf** is a whisper to the living.” (Russian proverb)
- **Only** a mediocre person is always at his best.

REASONABLE DOUBT

A defendant was on trial for murder. There was strong evidence indicating guilt, but there was no corpse. In the defense’s closing statement the defense lawyer, knowing that his client would probably be convicted, resorted to a trick.

“Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I have a surprise for you all,” the lawyer said as he looked at his watch. “Within one minute, the person presumed dead will walk into this courtroom.” He looked toward the courtroom door. The jurors, somewhat stunned, all looked on eagerly. A minute passed. Nothing happened.

Finally the lawyer said, "Actually, I made up the previous statement. But you all looked on with anticipation. I therefore put to you that you have a reasonable doubt in this case as to whether anyone was killed and insist that you return a verdict of not guilty."

The jury, clearly confused, retired to deliberate. A few minutes later, the jury returned and pronounced a verdict of guilty.

"But how?" inquired the lawyer. "You must have had some doubt. I saw all of you stare at the door."

The jury foreman replied, "Oh, we looked, but your client didn't." --Cybersalt
Digest

WE SHOULD BE REMINDED that there will be a day in which we all shall stand in Judgment (2 Cor. 5:10). At that time there will be no tricky lawyer to get us acquitted. We are all guilty before God (Rom. 3:23), and worthy of death (Rom. 6:23a), but through Jesus, who died for us, we are offered the gift of life (Rom. 6:23b). Only in Jesus, the crucified and risen Lord, is justification possible (Rom. 3:23-26; 4:25). --Ron

WITNESSES

In Matthew 18:16 (MEV), Jesus tells His disciples, "What if he does not listen, then take with you one or two others, that by the testimony of two or three witnesses every word may be established." This is in the context of how to handle conflicts whenever a brother or sister sins against you, and you have gone to him or her about the situation, privately at first, and the situation has not been resolved. Jesus reiterated a principle from the Law of Moses which stated, "A single witness must not rise up against a man on account of any iniquity or any sin that he sins. At the testimony of two witnesses or at the testimony of three witnesses shall the matter be established" (Deuteronomy 19:15, MEV). Our God is, indeed, a just God, as Scripture attests,, and He expects His people to be just as well. "He is the Rock: His work is perfect: for all His ways are just. He is a God of faithfulness and without injustice: righteous and upright is He" (Deuteronomy 32:4, MEV). God is perfect in all His ways, but because of sin we are imperfect. That is why it has always been very important to God as a matter of law that we make sure a person truly is guilty before entering punishment upon an individual. Our nation was founded upon the principles brought forth in God's word. One of these founding principles is that of innocent until proven guilty. We have recently seen this godly principle be trampled upon, whereby the mere accusation of wrongdoing is sufficient to destroy a man and his family. These things ought not to be. –David Ferguson, Lake Land, Mattoon, Bulletin)

"QUESTIONS ABOUT HEAVEN" continues to be our theme for our Sunday morning messages. This morning's reading is Matt. 8:5-11.

THE SHULTS LEWIS CHILDREN'S HOME VAN will be in our area for their commodities-pickup next week. They have suggested a need for canned green beans. Checks for perishables are also welcome. Any donations should be in by next Sunday.

FOR PRAYER: Doris's younger sister, Louise, is in a hospital in Fort Wayne, Ind., and her condition is critical. We visited with her and family-members Wednesday.

AN ORGANIZATION OF WITCHES in New York is calling for participants to cast a hex upon Judge Kavanaugh, the newly appointed judge to the U. S. Supreme Court. By contrast, may Christians pray for all in our government. (1 Timothy 2:2)