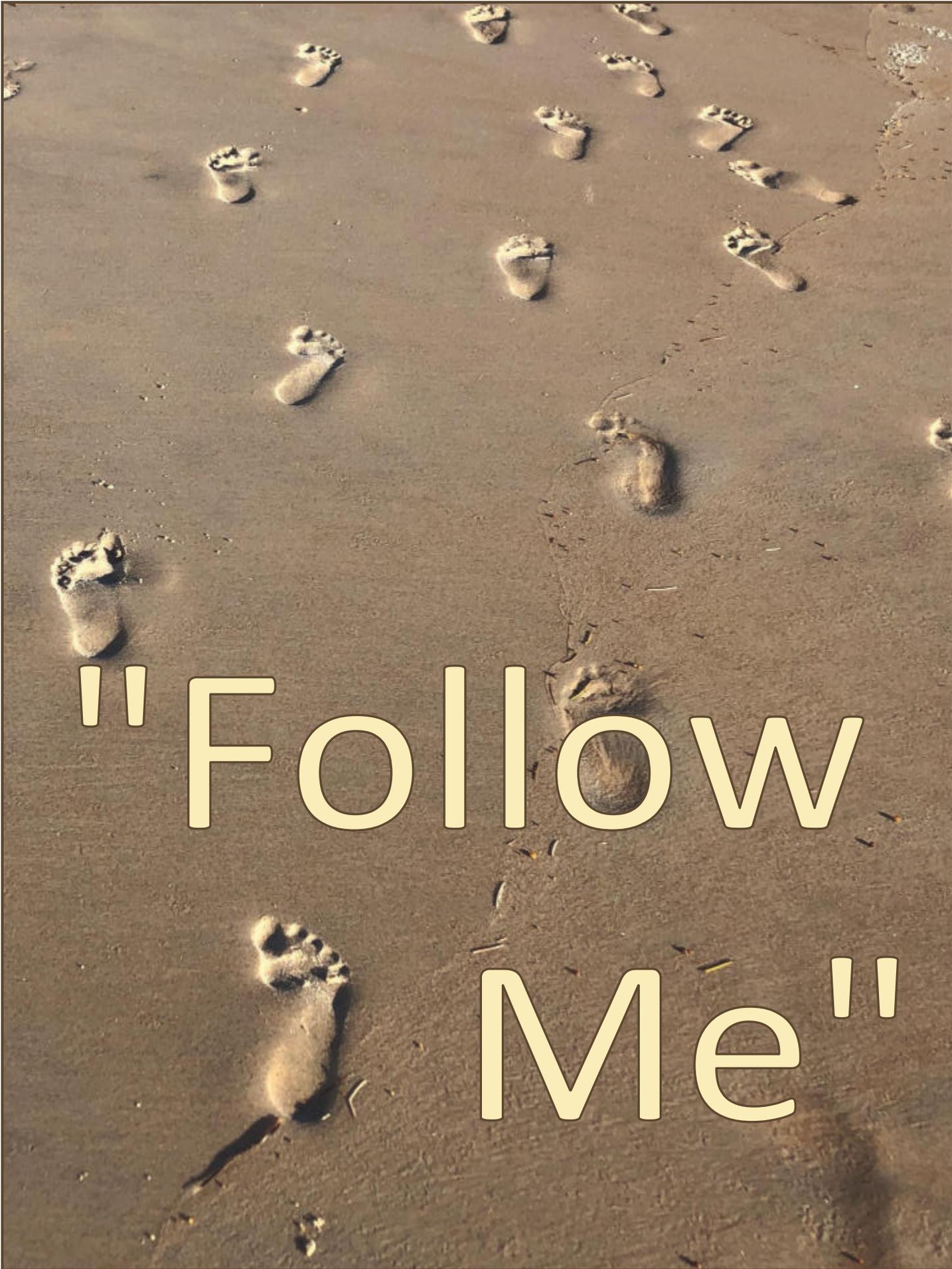


September 12, 2021



Connecting people to God's transforming love
through worship, discipleship, fellowship, and service.



"Follow
Me"

Sermon Notes and Growing as Disciples: September 12, 2021
Follow Jesus / Matthew 9:9-13; 10:34-39

Key Verse: “Follow me,’ [Jesus] told [Matthew], and Matthew got up and followed him.”

Matthew 9:9b NIV

I. An invitation

- How do you feel when you receive an invitation?

- Connected

II. Follow me....

- A. As a child Matthew would have known who he belonged to.

- B. The tax collector would have known separation from the covenant community.

- C. Can a person like Matthew be invited to join Jesus’ band of friends?

- D. Matthew left behind his old life.

III. Invited to follow Jesus

- A. “An invitation to imitation.” Jorge Acevedo

- B. It is an invitation to become our authentic God-designed self.

- C. It is an invitation to mission and ministry.

- D. It is an invitation to grace.

III. The challenge of following Jesus

- A. There’s a cross involved in the invitation.

- B. We are invited to a surrendered life that will change the world.

IV. Jesus said, “Follow me.”

Growing as disciples: “O Merciful Father, who in compassion for your sinful children didst send your Son Jesus Christ to be Savior of the world: Grant us grace to feel and to lament our share of the evil which made it needful for him to suffer and to die for our salvation. Help us by self-denial, prayer, and meditation to prepare our hearts for deeper penitence and a better life. And give us a true longing to be free from sin, through the deliverance wrought by Jesus Christ our only Redeemer.” BOW 1965, p. 95 #2 Modified.

Sunday: 1 Samuel 8

Monday: 1 John 2

Tuesday: 1 John 3

Wednesday: 1 John 4

Thursday: 1 John 5

Friday: 2 John and 3 John

Saturday: 1 Samuel 9-10



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Welcome to Morrison

Thank you for spending part of your weekend with us. If you are new to Morrison and would like to learn more about our programs and community, please visit our website at www.morrisonumc.org.

Contemporary Worship 9:00 AM

The worship band will kick off the service with a few songs. Feel free to sing and to clap and move to the music as you feel comfortable. After the music, you will hear a great message. We will close with communion where all believers are welcome to participate. With that being said, feel free to grab a cup of coffee and a donut from the back, then find your seats, if you haven't already. The service will begin shortly. All -in-all, we'll be here for a little under an hour.

Traditional Worship 11:00 AM

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Improvisation on *City at Night*"

F. Kinney

The first note of the prelude is our call to silent meditation.

INVOCATION

"O Merciful Father, who in compassion for your sinful children didst send your Son Jesus Christ to be Savior of the world: Grant us grace to feel and to lament our share of the evil which made it needful for him to suffer and to die for our salvation. Help us by self-denial, prayer, and meditation to prepare our hearts for deeper penitence and a better life. And give us a true longing to be free from sin, through the deliverance wrought by Jesus Christ our only Redeemer." [Book of Worship, 1965, p. 95 #2 modified.]

HYMN 160

"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"

MARION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 880 "The Apostles' Creed"

GLORIA PATRI 71

**Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost.**

**As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

OFFERING

We have several giving options available during this challenging time. You can mail your check to the church, or drop it in the mail slot in the front door of the office. Several options for electronic giving can be found by clicking on the giving button under the worship tab on our website at www.morrisonumc.org. Thank you for your support.

OFFERTORY

“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”

Chancel Choir
Spiritual arr. M. McDonald

DOXOLOGY 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

MISSION STATEMENT

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 9:9-13, 10:34-39

page 1509

SERMON

Following Jesus

Pastor David

HYMN 338

“Where He Leads Me”

NORRIS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Scherzo on *Joyful, Joyful We Adore You*”

S. Wesley

Our 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM worship services are streamed live via our Facebook page, YouTube, and our website, www.watchmorrison.com.



Today’s Reader:

Karen Weicht



Today’s sanctuary flowers

are given in honor of our loving Grandparents, Nena and Papa, Cliff and Glenda Bridges, by Cliff, Chase, Jay, and Taylor. Happy Grandparents Day! We love you!



We still have available slots for 2021 sanctuary flowers. Please call Terri Hester in the office (787-3786) if you would like to sign up for one of the available Sundays.

TODAY

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship
10:00 AM Connect Sunday School Classes
11:00 AM Traditional Worship

MONDAY

7:00 PM Nominations Committee

TUESDAY

10:00 AM In-person Bible Study

WEDNESDAY

10:00 AM Staff Meeting
6:00 PM Bible Study on Zoom
6:30 PM Chancel Ringers
8:00 PM AA, AI-Anon

THURSDAY

6:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice
6:30 PM Worship Band Practice

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

9:30 AM Connected Women's Breakfast
on Zoom

Please sign up on our website to be on our email list. Go to morrisonumc.org and click on the link to subscribe to the list. If you would like us to put you on the list, contact Terri Hester at 787-3786 or thester@morrisonumc.org.

Church office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM and by appointment at other times. Face-coverings are requested when visiting the office.

Special Note: Because of the high number of COVID cases, all scheduled church activities are subject to a last minute change.

Worship Opportunities:

- **On Sundays**, we are offering contemporary worship at 9:00 AM and traditional worship at 11:00 AM, in person and online. In response to the recent rise in COVID-19 cases, face masks are requested for everyone. We ask that you please respect one another's comfort levels concerning social distancing.
- **Holy Communion:** We celebrate Holy Communion weekly at our 9:00 AM service, and on the first and third Sundays of each month in the traditional service (11:00 AM). If you are worshipping at home, please plan to have grape juice and some form of bread available. Pre-filled communion cups will be available for those attending in-person. If you would like pre-filled communion cups for home use, you may come by the office and we will be glad to provide them for you.

Discipleship Opportunities:

- **Adult Connect Sunday School classes:** For more information, call the church office at 352-787-3786.
 - ◇ The Inquirers' SS class - building 4, room 103
 - ◇ The Early Risers' class - building 4, room 206
 - ◇ The Connect Around the Table class - building 4, room 208
 - ◇ The Connections class - building 4, room 106
- **Bible Study:** Join us in-person on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 AM in the Inquirers' classroom, or on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 PM via Zoom. If you would like to participate on Zoom, email Pastor David at dstauffer@morrisonumc.org for the link. Here is the current study:
 - ◇ **Scripture and the Skeptic** by Eric Huffman will be our next study. This will be a four-week study. The book is available at Amazon.com in both paperback and Kindle versions, and at Cokesbury.com. If you will be joining us for the first time, please contact Pastor David at (352) 787-3786 so he'll know to expect you (this is especially true if you are joining us via Zoom on Wednesday evening).
- **Connected Women's Ministry:** A one lesson Scripture study from Acts will be offered at 3:00 PM on Sunday, September 19 on Zoom. If interested, contact Terri at 352-978-1463 or connectedwomen352@gmail.com if interested.

Fellowship Opportunity:

- **We have a fellowship time** in the Family Life Center (building 3) between the two worship services. You are invited to join us for coffee and donuts and conversations with friends.
- **Connected Women's Ministry's Saturday Breakfast Group** will meet online via Zoom at 9:30 AM this Saturday. Join us for a short devotion and a time of fellowship. RSVP to Terri Hester at connectedwomen352@gmail.com to receive an email link to join the breakfast.

Service Opportunities:

- **Invitation to join our prayer ministry:** Do you pray? Do you pray for others? Would you be willing to have prayer concerns emailed to you several times a week? And if so, would you pause to pray for those concerns? If your answer is yes, please join our email prayer chain. Send an email to dstauffer@morrisonumc.org or call the church office at (352) 787-3786 and request to be added to our prayer ministry email chain.

Ruth Circle: Meetings are scheduled to resume in October. We will meet in the same place—Plantation Oaks Restaurant, but on a different day and time—on the second Wednesday at noon. The first meeting will be on October 13. Please bring your book, Jesus' Parables of Grace by James Moore. We will discuss what book to do next and other suggestions for future meetings. Contact Pat Ramer at 352-323-6150 or Sally Zupsic at 724-561-9486 with your RSVP. Feel free to invite any ladies who might be interested. We hope you will join us as we *circle* around the table in Christian love; sharing our faith through community service and fellowship.

Morrison UMC has an app! You can find it on the App Store and Google Play. If you have any questions, contact Terri Hester in the church office at 352-787-3786.

You can submit your prayer requests online by going to www.morrisonumc.org and clicking on the link to submit prayer requests or through the link on our new app. If you prefer, you can call the church office with your prayer concerns.

Prayer for Christian Worship: "We exalt you, our God and King; we will praise your name forever." We pray that our worship services and our very lives will give you glory and will "extol your name forever and ever." We honor you and your great works. We celebrate your "abundant goodness" and "gracious compassion." Thank you for being near to "all who call on" you. All glory and honor are yours. Amen. [Loosely based on Psalm 145]



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