



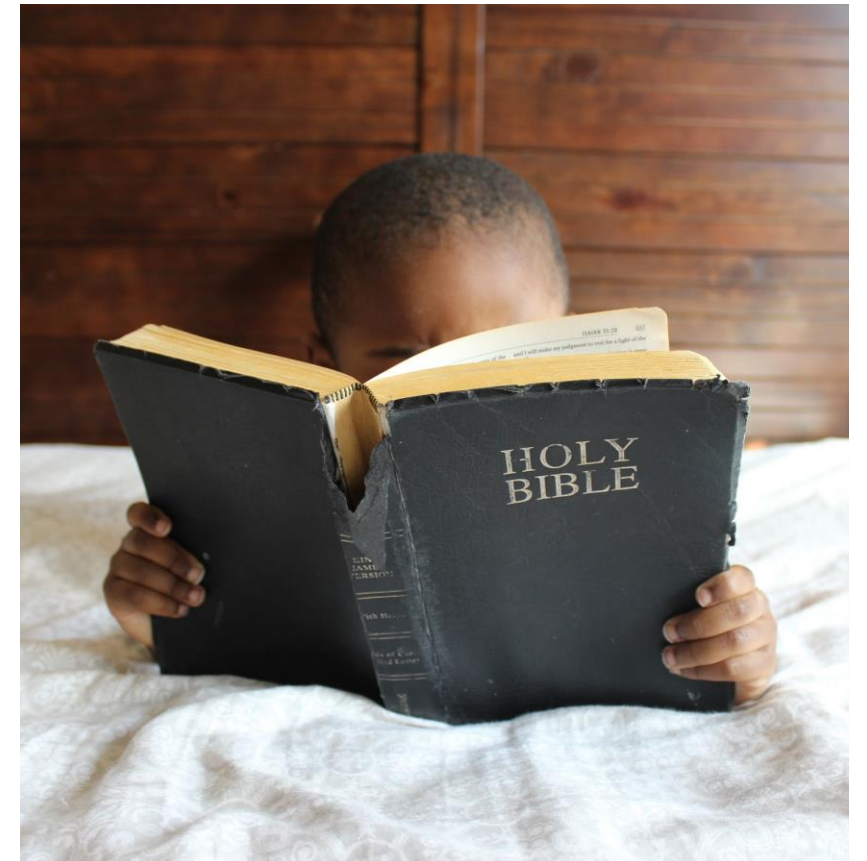
# Following...JESUS Part 1



# Introduction...

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- In these Last Days, the Bible is clear:
- *<sup>10</sup> And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.*
- *<sup>11</sup> Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. <sup>12</sup> And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.*
- *<sup>13</sup> But he who endures to the end shall be saved.*
- *<sup>14</sup> And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. Matthew 24:10-14*



# Introduction...

- It is not an exaggeration to say all the signs prophesied by our LORD are being fulfilled right before our eyes.
- There is a strange but tangible spirit of rebellion in the air along with deep deception.
- For some who have lived for many decades, they are in disbelief and shock at the moral and mental state of many around them and In their families.



**Danger**



# Introduction...

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- *But understand this, that in the last days dangerous times [of great stress and trouble] will come*
- *[difficult days that will be hard to bear]. <sup>2</sup> For people will be lovers of self [narcissistic, self-focused],*
- *lovers of money [impelled by greed], boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy and profane,*
- *<sup>3</sup> [and they will be] unloving [devoid of natural human affection, calloused and inhumane], irreconcilable, malicious gossips, devoid of self-control [intemperate, immoral], brutal, haters of good,....2 Tim 3: 1-3*



**Danger**

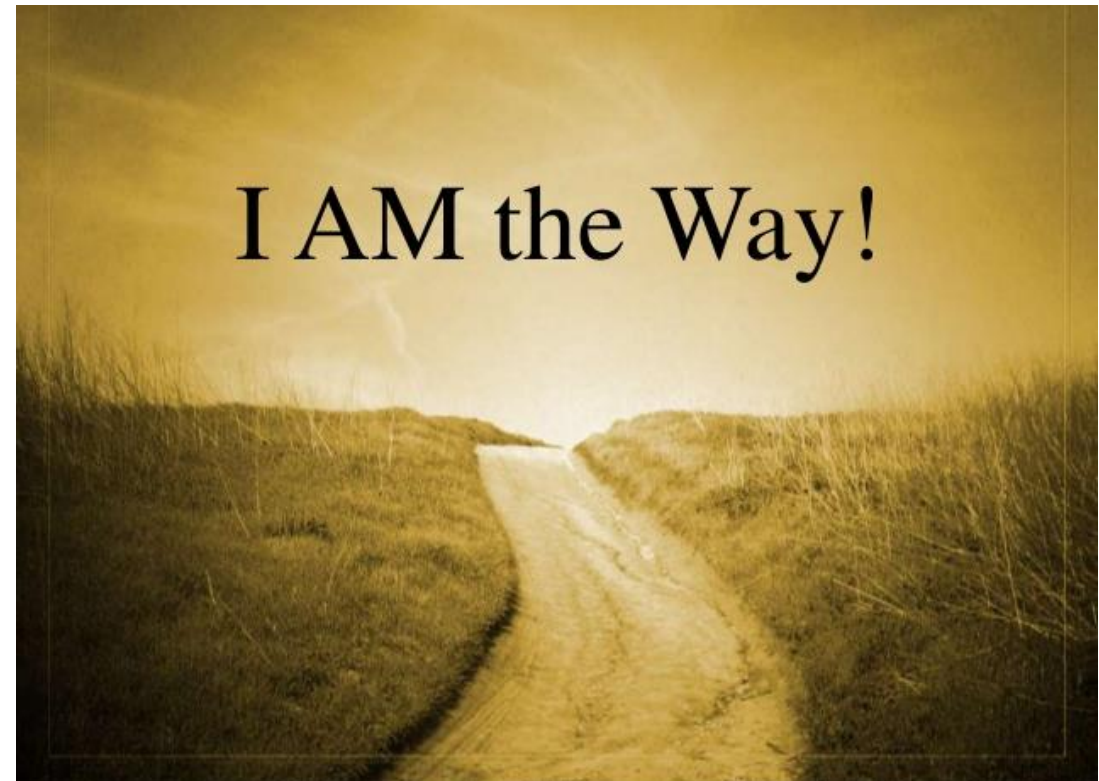
# The Door....

- *<sup>7</sup> Jesus therefore said again to them, Verily, verily, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.*
- *<sup>8</sup> All whoever came before me are thieves and robbers; but **the sheep** did not hear them.*
- *<sup>9</sup> I am the door: if any one enter in by me, he shall be saved, and shall go in and shall go out and shall find pasture.*
- *<sup>10</sup> The thief comes not but that he may steal, and kill, and destroy: I am come that they might have life, and might have [it] abundantly.*
- *<sup>11</sup> I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep:*
- John 10: 7-11



# The Way...

- In this current world of tricksters, thieves and killers, it is imperative that we are discerning....
- We need to be able to know the difference between wheat and chaff.
- That is why a relationship with the true Shepherd is the only sure way to navigate the lies and deception in our world.
- *<sup>6</sup> Jesus says to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father unless by me. John 14:6*



# Babies in the Pulpit...

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- One of the great challenges of our times is the invasion of pulpit by novices, immature believers and even imposters.
- *Teach them and exhort them about these things. <sup>3</sup> If someone spreads false teachings*
- *and does not agree with sound words (that is, those of our Lord Jesus Christ) and with the teaching that accords with godliness,*
- *<sup>4</sup> he is conceited and understands nothing, but has an unhealthy interest in controversies and verbal disputes. This gives rise to envy, dissension, slanders, evil suspicions,*
- *<sup>5</sup> and constant bickering by people corrupted in their minds and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a way of making a profit. 1 Timothy 6:3-5*



# By this time...

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- *<sup>12</sup> For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of **the oracles of God**;*
- *and you have come to need milk and not solid food. <sup>13</sup> For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the **word of righteousness**,*
- *for he is a babe. <sup>14</sup> But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*
- *Hebrews 5:12-14*





# The Gospel Has Levels...

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- Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary *principles* of Christ, **let us go on** to <sup>[a]</sup>perfection,
- not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,
- <sup>2</sup> of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment  
Hebrews 6:1-2

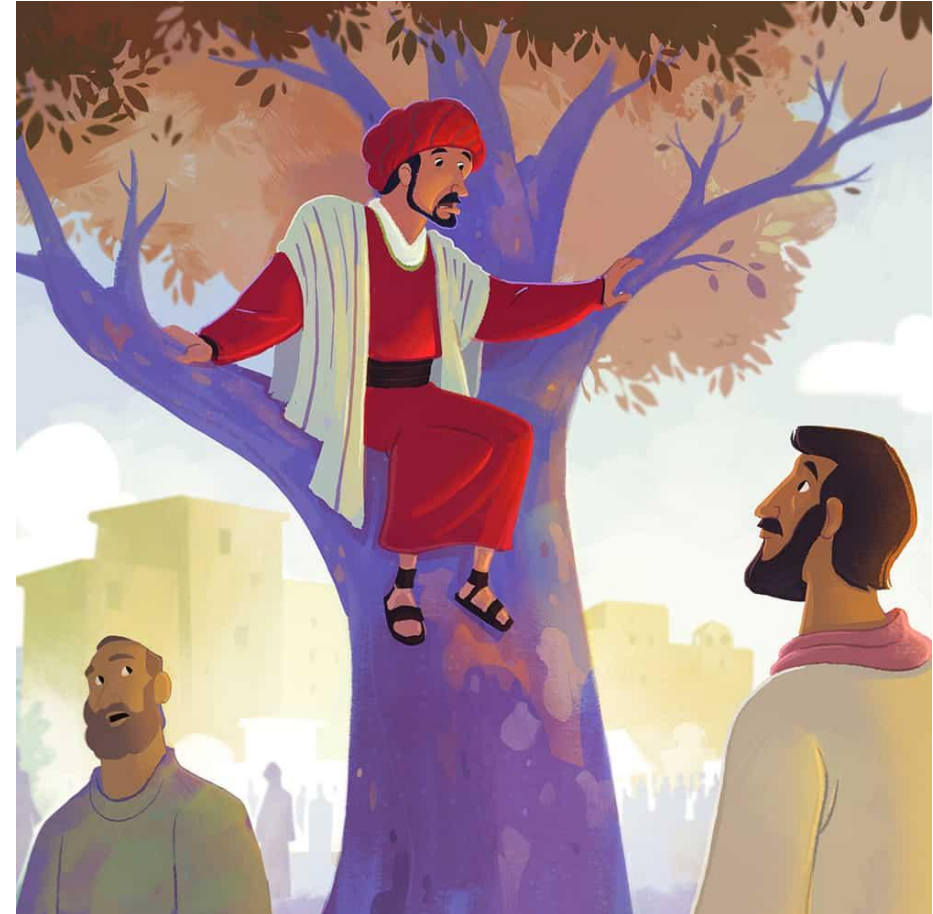


# Knowing Jesus vs Following Him

- <sup>17</sup> Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, “Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?”
- <sup>18</sup> So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one *is* good but One, *that is*, God. <sup>19</sup> You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery,’
- ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not bear false witness,’ ‘Do not defraud,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother.’ ”
- <sup>20</sup> And he answered and said to Him, “Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth.”
- <sup>21</sup> Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor,
- and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, **and follow Me.**”
- <sup>22</sup> But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, **for he had great possessions.**
- <sup>23</sup> Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!”
- <sup>24</sup> And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, “Children, how hard it is **[b]**for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God!
- <sup>25</sup> It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”
- <sup>26</sup> And they were greatly astonished, saying among themselves, “Who then can be saved?”

# Zacchaeus...

- Then *Jesus* entered and passed through Jericho. <sup>2</sup> Now behold, *there was* a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. <sup>3</sup> And he sought to see who *Jesus* was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature.
- <sup>4</sup> So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. <sup>5</sup> And when *Jesus* came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.”
- <sup>6</sup> So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. <sup>7</sup> But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, “He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.”
- <sup>8</sup> Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.”
- <sup>9</sup> And *Jesus* said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; <sup>10</sup> for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”
- Luke 19:1-10



# Which One Are YOU...?

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- Do the things of this world have a stronger hold on you than your love for God?
- What is that Idol that competes with God for the throne of your heart?
- Can you like Zacchaeus uproot the stronghold over your life and allow the Salvation of Christ to come in...?







## Are You Still A Baby..?

- *“Whom will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message? Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts? Isaiah 28:9*
- *The LORD is trying to teach the people a lesson; he is trying to make them understand his teachings. But the people are like babies too old for breast milk, like those who no longer nurse at their mother’s breast.*

# Like A Child...

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- *11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.  
1 Corinthians 13:11*
- *11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.*





# No Longer Children...

- *<sup>14</sup> So that we are no longer children [spiritually immature], tossed back and forth [like ships on a stormy sea] and carried about by every wind of [shifting] doctrine,*
- *by the cunning and trickery of [unscrupulous] men, by the deceitful scheming of people ready to do anything [for personal profit].*  
*Ephesians 4:14*



# Signs That You Are A Baby...

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- You can only handle milk word. That is processed milk. You don't know how to draw up a Bible study and teach someone else from the word
- You attend church religiously and will defend the church doctrine even if it does not line up with the word - blind leading the blind
- Everything is about You
- Your life, Your finances, Your family -
- Your prayers are 80-90% about you - all these things the Gentiles seek...





# Signs...

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- You do not know your spiritual gifts
- You have not exercised any spiritual gift
- You can't remember when last you preached the Gospel to someone else
- You do not have any spiritual children that you brought into the Kingdom yourself



# Signs...

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- You do not have a clear list of things the Lord Himself said directly to you in your quiet moments with him
- You are still in awe of men and their anointing or gifts and will attend a special program so that you can receive their anointing or blessing
- Your emotions and flesh get the better of you regularly. You are still acutely struggling with the same habits and besetting sins you had when you became a Christian or many years ago - Samson



# Jesus Said...

- *23 Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross <sup>[b]</sup>daily, and follow Me.*
- *24 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.*
- *25 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?*
- *26 For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father’s, and of the holy angels*  
*Luke 9:23..*





# HOMEWORK

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What is The CROSS?

