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❖SERMON NOTES❖

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Sunday, September 9, 2012

**“FOLLOWING JESUS”**

(Matthew 5:1-2)

Today we begin a new series of messages from Matthew 5-7. This section of Matthew’s gospel is referred to as the Sermon on the Mount. In this passage, Jesus teaches on what it means to be His disciple, His follower, His student. Jesus describes life in His Kingdom and under His authority.

When Jesus called out to His first disciples He simply said, “*Follow me*” (Mark 1:17, NASB). What does it mean to follow Jesus?

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(Matthew 5:1-2)

*“Follow me”* (Mark 1:17, NASB).

*“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me”* (Matthew 16:24, NIV).

*“To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: ‘Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted”* (Luke 18:9-14, NIV).

*“My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life”* (John 10:10, NLT).

*“Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well”* (Matthew 6:33, NIV).