

FOLLOW ME

A Message From God

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“FOLLOW ME” – *A Journey With Jesus* **Revised and Updated Edition 2019**

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Library of Congress Catalog Card Number; 96-094630

International Standard Book Number; 0-9654179-0-5

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Forward

The book you hold in your hands today, “*Follow Me*”, has transformed my life, my relationships, my ministry, and most importantly my personal relationship with my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, our Messiah and King. I know you have read the Gospels in portions, in their entirety, and for many of you, many, many times over, but how **Mike Gibson** has presented the Four Gospel accounts of Jesus Christ will change you and how you do relationships and ministry going forward.

In this chronologically written presentation, keeping the integrity of the text, of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, in partnership with American Bible Society, you will see with understanding the entirety of each Biblical account, its chronological timeline of events, the 263 keys to making disciples, as Jesus instructs each one of us to go about doing and teaching, “*Go and make disciples of all nations ... teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you,*” Matthew 28:18-20, and Mike’s scholarly research and commentary from a truly Biblical framework, “*Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old,*” Matthew 13:52, from Genesis to Revelation, while at the same time, you will be challenged at the core of your Theology, and how you live out and share your Faith.

Buckle up, the Adventure that you are about to embark on will become the *Adventure of a Life Time* for you and all those you come in contact with. I pray, as the Scripture reads,

that, “our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, **having the eyes of your heart enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you,**” Ephesians 1:17-18, and that you will never be the same, truly becoming the Light of the World that Jesus has called you to be, “**You are the light of the world. . . let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works (those that declare God’s good works) and give glory to your Father who is in heaven**” Matthew 5:14-16.

A believer of our Lord Jesus Christ, myself, of over 40 years, pastor and husband of over 20 years, father of two grown children, and grandfather, I remember my humble beginnings of sharing my faith, raising my family, and doing ministry, and although I would not exchange any of those experiences for the World, if I knew then what I know now, I could only imagine the Adventures that our Lord would have taken me on. Though, without regret of the past, with this knowledge and application of faith, I have now, over the course of a decade, the Lord has taken me and the ministry of Disciple Making from my own back yard, to the hearts of those around the US, India, Israel, South America, Africa, and beyond. With my greatest Adventure with my own step-father, **Mike Gibson**, who in the early-90s began to uncover and develop these life changing resources and words of Jesus, from a Word he had received from the Lord that these revealed resources would one day go global, to the country of India, in 2016, where he and I trained, together, 50 pastors, using this book, “*Follow Me*”, and the Discipleship teachings of Jesus, which has ignited a fever pitch of following Jesus in a country once lit up before, nearly 2,000 years earlier, by two of Jesus’ first Disciples, Timothy and Titus. Together, my step-father and I, have been on one of the Greatest Adventures of our lives, and we pray the lives of each individual we come along side in this *Journey with Jesus*.

It will be through this chronological Gospel account, “*Follow Me*”, and its companion series “*A Journey with Jesus*”, that Mike unpacks each one of Jesus’ commands, to reunite you with the Master Teacher, God Himself, understanding that “*no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ,*” 1 Corinthians 3:11. The Harvest is truly plentiful, therefore, we ask that you join us as we pray Jesus’ prayer, in agreement together:

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” Matthew 9:37-38

Welcome to, “*Follow Me*”, and know that the words you read going forward are spirit and they are truth; and now in the words of Jesus Himself, “***Come, follow me,***” Matthew 4:19.

Ryan K. Roberts
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Introduction

- The Story -

The most incredible story in the universe is God's dealings with men. The story is told using seven types of literature woven together in one account called the Bible. These seven types of literature are divided into three groups commonly called the Old Testament, New Testament, and the Gospels. The Old Testament consists of three types of writing called: *The Law*, *The Prophets*, and *The Writings*. This group's primary function is to point forward to the Messiah (or Savior). The New Testament also consists of three types of writing known as *The Acts of the Apostles*, *the Epistles (or Letters)*, and *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*. This group's primary function is to unfold the benefits that come from the Messiah. The final group, the Gospels, form the central and pivotal part of the story, which concerns the Messiah and the purposes for which He was sent to earth. The Gospels primary function is to blend both the Old and New Testaments into one account through the Messiah, Jesus the Christ, the Son of God.

The Law	
The Prophets	The Old Testament
The Writings	
The Gospels	The Messiah
The Acts of the Apostles	
The Epistles	The New Testament
The Revelation of Jesus Christ	

The focus of this book is the central part of that story, the Gospels. This portion of the story is told by four men, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, who each wrote an account of Messiah. Matthew's gospel is the most detailed and views things from a Hebraic mindset. Luke's gospel is written in chronological order and John's gospel reveals significant spiritual truths. Mark wrote the first gospel and it serves as the glue that binds all the others together. It is through their eyes, ears, and hearts that each one of us is able to see the works that God performed through Messiah, to hear the "good news" that He is proclaiming, and to understand the depth of His love for mankind.

- The Purpose -

The purpose of my writing this book is to forge the four gospels into one seamless story so that the reader may more fully understand the events that surround the Messiah and His coming to earth. It is my intent to make you feel like you are walking with Jesus and being taught by Him on His journey through life.

Besides combining the four gospels into one story other significant features have been included to increase the reader's awareness and understanding:

- Two Unique Features -

Just prior to His being raised up into heaven Jesus gave his followers a commission to accomplish before He returned again. That commission was to, "**Go** therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing them in the name** of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe all that I commanded you**; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." In response to the commission to teach others to observe all that Jesus commanded. I have underlined and highlighted in bold type all the instructions that He gave His group of disciples.

All of the instructions Jesus gave His disciples are contained in lessons which He was teaching them. **THE FIFTY-SIX LESSONS** that Jesus taught them can be found in the companion teaching series entitled: "**A Journey with Jesus.**" The teaching series consists of three books: "**Fishers of Men,**" "**Into the Harvest**" and "**Building the Temple.**"

- Other Features -

Chronology: All the events in this book are in the order in which they occurred and were derived from side by side comparisons of the four gospel accounts and various harmonies of the gospels.

Dating: The dates of events in this book assist the reader in discovering the time frames in which Jesus' story unfolds.

Divisions: The book has been divided into 18 parts in order to help the reader see the "big picture" of Jesus' life and mission.

Headings: Each part of the book is further subdivided into specific events occurring within the life of Jesus.

Heading references (in parenthesis): Indicate the actual Scriptural passages used in the text under that heading.

Footnoting: Footnote references occur at the end of each page. Those referencing words or phrases are in regular type. Those referencing passages of scripture are in italicized type.

Glossary: The glossary contains comments on or definitions of commonly used words or terms used throughout the text.

Scripture: The text is taken directly from the New American Standard Bible.

- To The Reader -

Not everyone will agree with every position taken in this work, however, many knowledgeable sources were consulted in its preparation. This book is not meant to replace the individual accounts of the gospel writers, but merely to serve as a supplement to them. Date setting of various events is based on historical documents, astronomical evidence, the Jewish calendar with its 19 year repeating cycles, the Feasts of the Lord and the customs of the Jewish people. To those who have labored long in the study of God's Word and prepared helps for each of us to learn by, I extend thanksgiving and gratitude for their labor of love in Christ.

- My Hope -

My heart's desire is that my Father in heaven be glorified by the exaltation of His Son in this book and that each of you, the readers, be transformed into the likeness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Teaser -

Part 1

Jesus, Messiah and Lord

"I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations, and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed." - Daniel 7:13-14

- The Good News -

(Mark 1:1)

The beginning of the gospel¹ of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

¹ **Gospel.** Many people have heard the term gospel. Some preach it and others use it as a synonym for truth. But what is it? The word gospel is derived from two old English words: **1)** God (the divine creator) **2)** spell (tale). It is a translation of the Greek word euaggeelion, which is pronounced yoo-ang-ghel-ee-on. In English we pronounce that Greek word as evangel. It means "a good message or good news."

- The Word of God -² (John 1:1-18)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There came a man, sent from God, whose name was John.³ He came for a witness, that he might bear witness of the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came that he might bear witness of the light. There was the true light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He⁴ was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of Him, and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'" For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.

- The Purpose of the Gospels - (Luke 1:1-4)

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word have handed them down to us, it

² **The Word of God.** The entire opening statement of John's gospel is a revelation of the identity and mission of Jesus Christ.

The two opening lines of John's gospel are a direct reference to the first day of creation as recorded in Genesis 1:1-5. Also note: the light being referred to here is "true" light ... to be distinguished from the light given off from the sun, moon and stars which were not created until the fourth day.

³ **John.** This is a reference to John the Baptist.

⁴ **He.** In John 8:12, Jesus also refers to Himself as "the light of the world."

seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus;⁵ so that you might know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.

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⁵ **Theophilus** is a Greek name and means “Friend of God.”