

**FOLLOW**  
**Pt. 1 – 'Jesus Says'**  
Pastor Vernie Fletcher  
June 30th, 2013

**Jesus says:  
Follow**

**Father – Child  
Vine – Branch  
Shepherd – Sheep**

**Matthew 9:9 (NIV)**

<sup>[9]</sup> As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "***Follow me,***" he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

"If you are willing to \_\_\_\_\_,  
You can follow me."

Am I *FOLLOWING*?

**Matthew 9:10 (NIV)**

<sup>[10]</sup> While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, ***many*** tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples.

**Matthew 9:11 (NIV)**

<sup>[11]</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"

**Matthew 9:12 (NIV)**

<sup>[12]</sup> On hearing this, Jesus said, "*It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.*"

**Matthew 9:13 (NIV)**

<sup>[13]</sup> *But go and **learn** what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not **come** to **call** the righteous, but sinners.*

**Pharisees:**

Change and you can join us!

**Following Jesus**

1. Being a sinner does not disqualify you, It's a prerequisite.

### Following Jesus

2. Being an unbeliever doesn't disqualify you.  
None of Jesus earliest Followers believed.

### Following Jesus

3. The invitation to follow  
is an invitation to relationship.

### God's Kindness

is what leads us to repentance.

### Following Jesus

4. Following forces me to  
Focus on where I am  
rather than where you are not.

The More Conscious: I am of the work God has yet to do in me,  
the less critical I am of what God has yet to do in you.

### AM I FOLLOWING?