Where He Leads I'll Follow

"Sweet are the promises, Kind is the word..." these words open the song *Where He Leads I'll Follow* (Hymns for Worship, p. 498). The scripture quotation at the top of the song page is from Peter: "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps" (one Peter 2:21). Have you ever considered that when the Apostles wrote, they wrote from an aspect of firsthand experience? In other words, Peter knew what it was like to physically follow Jesus, walking in His steps. Of course, we understand the application to be that we spiritually follow Jesus in our physical bodies. However, when we sing this song together we are encouraging one another, and making a statement of ourselves that we (I) will follow Him every day.

Were we to actually follow Jesus, physically, where might we have wound up? The earliest recording of Jesus' life is found in Luke 2:41-50. Jesus had traveled with his family to Jerusalem to observe the Passover. Four days later, after what was obviously a frantic parental search, His parents find Him in the temple. He had gone to the place where He knew He would be closest to His Father, and at twelve years of age astonished the adult teachers. Jesus sought to be in the place where His Father was worshiped. Would we have followed Him? Are we willing to follow His example regarding the importance of worship today?

Mark speaks concerning the importance of worship to Jesus during His physical life upon the earth. Mark records that "Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness. and He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan..." (Mark 2:12-13). Jesus resists the temptations of the devil and in His final declaration states, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall

serve" (Matthew 4:10). Mark continues his narrative by noting the first thing Jesus does when entering the city of Capernaum. "Immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught" (Mark 1:21). Again, Jesus went to the place where He knew His father was worshiped. Would we have followed Him? Are we willing to follow His example regarding the importance of worship today?

Luke further guides us in understanding just how important worship was in the life of Jesus while upon this earth. After beginning His ministry, Jesus returned to Nazareth. Luke says, "So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read" (Luke 4:16). Luke's declaration of, "as His custom was," allows us to see that the need to worship God was a constant in the life of Jesus. Again, would we have followed Him? Are we willing to follow His example regarding the importance of worship today?

Sadly, some Christians today fail to see the importance of worship. Amazingly, one can have a splitting headache Sunday morning and miss the assembly. Nevertheless, when the same headache is still present Monday morning the same one goes to work. Do you ever wonder why such could be the case? Maybe it is because we are not seeing the importance of worship like Jesus did.