

Follow Me — and I Will Make You Fishers

(A Journey Through the Gospel of Luke)

“Follow Him to the Cross”

Luke 22-23

August 30, 2026

Pastor David Bardowell

Big Idea

Jesus prepares His disciples to continue His mission by showing them how to serve, surrender, and follow Him faithfully—even when following is costly.

Disciple-Making Focus

Disciple-makers follow Jesus by serving others, surrendering to the Father’s will, and faithfully carrying His mission forward.

I. Disciple-Makers _____ Like Their King (Luke 22:14-30)

“Then they began to argue among themselves about who would be the greatest among them.” (Luke 22:24, NLT)

“Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant.” (Luke 22:26, NLT)

“For I am among you as one who serves.” (Luke 22:27, NLT)

Key Truth:

Greatness in God’s Kingdom is measured by humble service.

II. Disciple-Makers _____ to the Father’s Will (Luke 22:31-46)

“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” (Luke 22:42, NIV)

Key Truth:

Faithful discipleship requires surrendering our will to God’s will.

III. Disciple-Makers _____ Their King to the Cross (Luke 22:47-23:49)

“They seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.” (Luke 23:26, NIV)

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.” (Luke 9:23, NIV)

Key Truth:

Following Jesus means placing our lives behind His, whatever the cost.

Pastor David Bardowell, Senior Pastor
PastorDavid@TheGateOC.com
Info@TheGateOC.com

Small Group Questions — Week 24

Follow Me — and I Will Make You Fishers

Week 25: Follow Him to the Cross

Text: Luke 22-23

Start Here — Reflective Question

Think of a time when doing the right thing required you to give up something you wanted—your comfort, your plans, your time, or your preferences. What made surrender difficult?

Read the Passage

Because Luke 22–23 is lengthy, have someone read **Luke 22:24–46** and **Luke 23:26–49** aloud before discussion.

Discussion Questions

1. Serving Like Our King — Luke 22:14–30

As Jesus prepared to give His life, His disciples argued about which of them was the greatest. Jesus responded by pointing to Himself as the model of a servant.

- Why is the disciples' argument about greatness so striking in light of what Jesus was about to do?
- How does Jesus redefine greatness in verses 25–27?
- The sermon said:
“Greatness in God’s Kingdom is measured by humble service.”
How is that different from the way our culture often defines greatness?
- Where is God giving you an opportunity right now to serve someone without recognition or reward?

2. Surrendering to the Father’s Will — Luke 22:31–46

Peter confidently told Jesus that he was ready to go with Him to prison and even death. Shortly afterward, Jesus demonstrated what true surrender looks like in Gethsemane.

- What do Peter’s words in verses 33–34 reveal about the danger of being overly confident in our own strength?
- What stands out to you about Jesus’ prayer, **“Not my will, but yours, be done”**?
- The sermon said:
“Faithful discipleship requires surrendering our will to God’s will.”
Why is surrender often one of the hardest parts of following Jesus?
- Is there an area of your life where you are struggling to pray, **“Not my will, but Yours”**?

3. Following Our King to the Cross — Luke 22:47–23:49

After Jesus was betrayed, arrested, denied, mocked, and condemned, He was led to Calvary. Luke tells us that Simon of Cyrene carried Jesus’ cross **“behind Jesus.”**

- How does the picture of Simon carrying the cross behind Jesus remind you of Jesus’ words in Luke 9:23?

- What do Jesus’ words from the cross reveal about His character and His mission?
- The sermon said:
“Following Jesus means placing our lives behind His, whatever the cost.”
What might following Jesus cost us today?
- What is the difference between carrying our cross **for** salvation and carrying our cross **because** Jesus has saved us?

Disciple-Making Connection

The Disciple-Making Focus this week was:

“Disciple-makers follow Jesus by serving others, surrendering to the Father’s will, and faithfully carrying His mission forward.”

- How does serving others create opportunities for disciple-making?
- Why is personal surrender to Jesus essential if we are going to help others follow Him?
- Who is watching the way you follow Jesus right now?
- What is one intentional step you could take this week to help someone else follow Jesus?

Close Together

Spend time praying together.

Pray that God would:

- Give you the humility to serve like Jesus.
- Help you surrender your plans and desires to His will.
- Give you courage to follow Jesus when obedience is costly.
- Help you remember that Jesus carried the cross and gave His life for you.
- Show you someone you can intentionally help follow Jesus.

Weekly Challenge

Each morning this week, pray:

“Jesus, I choose to follow You today. Teach me to serve like You, surrender my will to Yours, and follow wherever You lead. Show me someone I can encourage to take another step toward You.”

Then intentionally do **three things** this week:

Serve someone.

Surrender something.

Help someone take one step closer to Jesus.