

Follow the Lamb (1)

Brother Ted Peng

Good afternoon brothers and sisters. This time the brothers have given me an assignment. I am supposed to share on 'Follow the Lamb'. Thank the Lord our brothers have already shared on the Lamb. I think these two sessions the emphasis is on 'Follow'.

Let us read a few Scriptures:

Revelation 14:1, 4-5 Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.

These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, for they have kept themselves chaste. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from among men as first fruits to God and to the Lamb. And no lie was found in their mouth; they are blameless.

Here I would like brothers and sisters to note that this is a beautiful scene – the Lamb standing on Mount Zion and with Him are the 144,000.

Let us read a few more Scriptures. The emphasis of these following Scriptures is the Lamb the leader.

Genesis 3:15 'And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise Him on the heel'.

This is what the Lord said to Satan. Here I want to underline 'her seed will crush your head'.

Isaiah 42:1 'Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations'.

This is the Lord Jehovah speaking. Note 'Behold my Servant'.

Here I want to say first that we are all familiar with Isaiah 52 and 53. These two chapters talked about the servant of the Lord. In Isaiah 52: 14, it said '*His appearance was marred more than any man and His form more than the sons of men*'.

Isaiah 53: 7 *He was oppressed and He was afflicted. Yet He did not open His mouth; like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth.*

It brought us to see that He was going to sacrifice for us. And He was likened to a lamb.

Isaiah 53:10 *But the Lord was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief; if He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days and the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand.*

Here we see that the Lord is pleased to bruise this servant and this Lamb. The Lord will make Him the sin offering. But the Lord also said He shall see His seed. So this Lamb has seed.

John 1:29 *The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.'*

Acts 5:31 *He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.*

Here Peter is talking about our Lord Jesus. Brothers and sisters note: leader and Savior

I think this is enough for now. Let us bow our head and have a word of prayer: Lord we thank You for giving us this opportunity to gather before You. Lord, we know You are deeply burdened to tell us something. You want us to see Your Lamb from the beginning to now and into eternity. Lord, I think you have a deeper burden for us to grasp that so we can follow Your Lamb the rest of our life. Lord, we just pray that You have mercy on us today. Lord may Your Spirit set us free so

that we can appreciate what is in Your mind and Your heart. And we can rise up and really follow You. In the name of our Lord Jesus we pray, Amen.

Brothers and sisters, Revelation 14 gives us a very beautiful picture. The Lamb is standing on Mount Zion victorious. With Him are the 144,000 who have God's name and the Lamb's name written on their foreheads. They do not belong to themselves. They belong to God and to the Lamb. God has redeemed them out of the power of darkness with the precious blood of the Lamb. They sing a new song that only those who are redeemed from the earth can learn. They have a distinctive character. They are virgins who have kept themselves for God. In their mouth, no lie was found. They have a distinctive action. They follow the Lamb wherever He goes. They are overcomers and are first fruits to God and to the Lamb.

Dear brothers and sisters, God's heart for us is to follow the Lamb to the end so we can finally stand on Mount Zion with the Lamb like the 144,000. God's heart for us is not any less than that. The 144,000 is not just for this one or for that one. It is for every one of us. 144,000 is a large number. It is a multiple of 12 times 12. It is a number that represents perfection and a number that satisfies God's heart. It is symbolic. Brothers and sisters when you think of the 144,000, do not think that you are on the waiting list and that you come in too late. There is no such thing. Brothers and sisters, this is just symbolic. It is a perfect number that satisfies God's heart. The Lord wants you and me to follow the Lamb to the very end. You and I will not be on the waiting list. You and I will be there among the 144,000.

We have two sessions this time. In the first session, we will like to look at examples in the Old Testament of those who have followed God and followed the Lamb. In the second session, we will like to examine New Testament examples and see how God wants us to follow the Lamb today in our own lives.

I think before we go to the examples, we want to see that following the Lamb is God's thought for men from Genesis to Revelation. Actually, in the heart and mind of God, the Lamb has a central position. We have read Genesis 3. We know the Lord Jehovah actually told Satan, 'The seed of the woman will crush your head'. Our brother has already read Revelation 13:8 which said, 'The Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world'. Yes, when the earth and the universe were

found, God already had the thought that the Lamb was to be slain. Finally, in the last chapter of Revelation 22, it said in the New Jerusalem there is a throne and the throne is of God and of the Lamb. Dear brothers and sisters, from the beginning to the end, the Lamb is there. Finally, He is not only there but He is on the throne with God.

When we look at history, there is a phrase in a verse in Revelation 5 which said, 'Behold the Lion of Judah and the Root of David'. What does that mean? It means the Lamb is the source of David. At the end of Revelation 22, it said, 'I am the Root of David and the Descendant of David'. David's Descendant means He comes after David. But the root of David means He came before David. Revelation 5 talks about a serious theme that our brother spoke of this morning. The Lamb is the root of David. David is David because of the Lamb. This Lamb is the one who actually leads history.

When we look at the Bible, this Lamb, our Lord, has four titles. The first is in Isaiah 42, 'He is called the Servant of God'. The second one is in Matthew 16 where Peter said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God'. He is the Son of God. He also is the Christ of God. The Christ of God is how Luke called Him in Luke 9:20. Then we come to John 1:29 where it said, 'He is the Lamb of God'. Those titles represent the different aspects of the ministries of the one and same Lord. The writers were very serious about this. When Isaiah said He is the Servant of God, he said 'Behold, my servant'. When John talked about this Lamb, he said 'Behold the Lamb of God'. In Revelation, he said 'Behold this is the root of David'. What does behold mean? Behold means look only at Him, and not at anyone else. In the eyes of Isaiah, the servant of God is the only servant of God. He is the only anointed servant of God. In Isaiah's eyes, there is no other. When John said, 'Behold the Lamb of God', he was saying do not look at others, look only at this Lamb of God. He is unique, the only Lamb of God. When Peter said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God', there is no other Christ. There is no other Son of God. Thank the Lord for that. He is the Leader. He is our Savior. He is the Servant of God.

Dear brothers and sisters, when we talk about following the Lamb today, we are talking about following the Son of God. We are following this Christ of God. We are following this Servant of God. We are following this Lamb of God.

Acts 5:31 said, 'He comes as our Leader and our Savior'. There are two things. He is the Leader. He is the Savior. Leader in English is simple. He is one who leads us. Just think about this 'He is our leader'. He is Savior and Leader. We thank the Lord He is our Savior. But if we only realize He is our Savior and not our Leader, we can become pretty passive. We probably do not have a sense of responsibility. We probably do not have a sense of direction. The danger is we may stay there for years. But if we also realize He is our Leader, we can actively follow Him. Now His purpose becomes our purpose. His direction becomes our direction. He will lead us forward until we stand with Him finally at Mount Zion in victory. Dear brothers and sisters, think that He is our Leader.

I would like to share some examples from the Old Testament and one example is Moses. Today when we think of Moses, we think that he was a great leader. But dear brothers and sisters, Moses was actually a follower of God. He was not only a follower of God but He was also a follower of the Lamb. We will just go to a verse.

In Deuteronomy 18, Moses said he would die within two years. He said, 'The Lord God will raise a prophet like me and you shall listen to Him'. In Moses' mind, there would be one whom God would send. He would lead the Israelites to accomplish God's purpose. Moses had this one in his mind. We thank the Lord. Moses not only followed the Lord Jehovah but he also followed the Lamb. He followed the Son of God. He followed the Servant of God. We often think of Moses as a spiritual giant and that he was so different from us and he was a great leader. Brothers and sisters, Moses never thought so. He never thought he was a spiritual giant. He just loved God. He just wanted to know God and to have a deeper knowledge of this God. He wanted to go really deep.

There is a verse in Psalm 103 which said 'the Lord made known His ways to Moses and His acts to the children of Israel'. When the Lord brought the Israelites out of Egypt, when He opened up the Red Sea, everyone saw. In the wilderness,

the Lord sent manna and everyone ate. But when they were not happy, they said they wanted to go back to Egypt and this manna did not taste good. However, Moses thought differently. He knew why God led them out of Egypt. Through all the difficulties he was so faithful to the purpose of God. Moses said in Deuteronomy that God gave us manna. The Lord gave us manna so that we will know that man does not live by bread alone but by every word from the mouth of God. Moses thought differently. Brothers and sisters today we are different from the Israelites of that time. The life of Christ is in us. The Spirit of the Lord is within us. We can now understand what Moses understood.

What is the difference between the way and the act? The act is just the outside. You can follow the act but you are not happy. The way is where he came from, where he is now and where he is going. Dear brothers and sisters, when we follow the Lamb today, do not think it is all rules or regulations. Try to seek where He came from, where He is now, and where He is leading us.

Deuteronomy was written during the last two years of Moses' life. Many think the Lord Jehovah did not fully explain everything in Exodus. But for thirty-eight years, Moses was watching, seeking and learning. Finally, when he wrote Deuteronomy he could explain the heart of God and the things that God did. Like the law for example. The Israelites saw it as rules and regulations. It was very hard. It put constraints on us. But Moses saw differently. Deuteronomy 33:2-3 *'He said, 'The Lord came from Sinai, and dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, and He came from the midst of ten thousand holy ones; at His right hand there was flashing lightning for them. Indeed, He loves the people; all Your holy ones are in Your hand, and they followed in Your steps; everyone receives of Your words.'* This was how Moses described the law. The Lord came from Mount Sinai and in His hand was the Law and yes, He loves His people. What was the Law to Moses? To Moses it was fire and love. This was what he observed from God during those forty years. What does the Law require us to do? You shall love Jehovah your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might. Our Lord Jesus quoted that and it is in Deuteronomy 6. Dear brothers and sisters, the Israelites saw the Law as a constraint in their life but Moses saw the Law as God's love and as God's fire.

Finally, before he died, Moses told the Israelites, 'I call all heaven and earth to witness against you. You have to follow Jehovah God, the Lord. You have to cleave to Him. If you choose Him, you choose life because He is your life'. Dear brothers and sisters, fifteen hundred years later, the apostle Paul wrote in Colossians, 'Christ is our life'. It is hard for us to imagine that. God moved Moses at that time to say in his heart that God is our life. It is extremely New Testament. It is hard to imagine that people at that time like Moses could think of this. God is our life. The Law is love.

Dear brothers and sisters, we ought to have a heart to seek the heart and mind of God, to seek to see His face, to seek to see His glory, and to seek to understand what He says. Why did He say this? Why did He do that? Brothers and sisters, actively pursue and actively follow the Lamb. Finally, Moses died. The Lord buried him alone at a place no one knew. It was as if He was saying 'Moses is mine'. Brothers and sisters, this is an encouragement to us.

We now come to David. We know David loved God. One thing was that he could not live without God. After he was anointed, from twenty to thirty years of age, he was persecuted by Saul. He was a fugitive. Sometimes brothers and sisters, we have the wrong concept. We think David could endure the fugitive life because he knew one day he would be king. I am sorry to say this is a very shallow thought. From the Psalms that David wrote, we know that this idea 'one day I am going to be king' was not an important thing in his life. We cannot find it in the Psalm. What was important to him was 'Lord I cannot live without you'.

While David was being chased, he finally got two chances to kill Saul. But he did not kill Saul. During the second time, he called out to Saul from a distance. He said, 'my lord, if someone provoke your heart, it is not me. If I really want to harm you, then just kill me. But I do not want to die at a place which is outside of Jehovah. I want to die in the inheritance of the Lord Jehovah. I cannot die at a place which is not the Lord's inheritance'.

Later after David became king, he took Jerusalem. For four hundred years, no one could take Jerusalem. God gave Jerusalem to Israel. No one could take it except for David. For seventy years, the ark was in the woods. When David became

king, he brought back the ark. He wanted to build a house for the Lord. The Lord said, 'These many years no one has mentioned that'. David's heart pleased the Lord.

David sinned. And after he sinned, he wrote in Psalm 51 'Lord I have sinned against you. My heart is not good. Lord can you build me a new heart? My spirit is not good. Can you give me a new spirit? Do not withdraw Your Holy Spirit from me. If you want me to offer anything, I would. But you do not want that. But a broken and contrite spirit you do not reject'. David wanted one thing. He did not want any distance between Him and the Lord Jehovah. He said, 'Search me O God and know my heart. Prove me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me. Lead me to the way everlasting'. David did not want anything to separate him from the Lord.

Brothers and sisters, today we follow the Lord. Where do you and I stand? Are we far away? Is there something we are hiding from Him? Is there anything we cannot tell Him? That was not David.

The third example I want to give you is a group of people. So Moses is an individual person. David is an individual person. Now there was a group of people that was described by Isaiah. When Isaiah described it, it was very encouraging. It means all of us. So let us see what he said about this group of people.

In the very beginning of the Book of Isaiah, Jehovah said, 'An ox knows its owner and a donkey its master's crib. But Israel does not know. My people do not understand'. When the Lord Jehovah saw His people, He said 'My people do not know Me'. The Lord would rather have this ox or He would rather have this donkey. Then Isaiah showed us that group of people. They were just like that ox. They were just like that donkey. They knew their owner and their master's crib. To know the owner means they follow the owner. To know the master's crib means they do not go to other places for resources. If they wanted to eat they would come to the master. If they wanted to rest, they would come to the master. If they had something to say, they would come to the master. That was what the master's crib stands for. There was a group of people who were like that. They

did not know each other but they knew their master. They all knew the master's crib. Isaiah called them the remnant.

In chapter 7 of Isaiah, Isaiah gave his son a name – Shear-jashub. It means the remnant shall return. A few chapters later in Isaiah 10, Isaiah actually said the remnant would return to the mighty God. Isaiah saw the condition of Israel. Isaiah saw for sure one day Jerusalem was going to be taken. He felt the grief in God's heart and gave his son this name. Thank the Lord. If we look at the history of the remnant, the key thing was that they actually returned to the mighty God. That applies to us as well. Today we are not returning to Jerusalem. We are returning to the mighty God. We may have been away from Him for a while. We may have been very slow to Him. Our hearts may be at other places. But now we have to return to the mighty God.

A few chapters later in Isaiah 37, the army of Assyria surrounded Jerusalem. The Lord Jehovah destroyed them. Then the Lord Jehovah sent Isaiah to tell King Hezekiah something. He told him something much more important and much more fundamental for the long term of His people. He said 'the remnant of Jacob shall once again take root downward and bear fruit upward'. Dear brothers and sisters, do not just look for this revival. Look for the digging and taking root downward. This is for your long-term good. The Lord was addressing to this remnant because the Israelites would not listen to Him. But this group of people would listen to Him because they were just like the ox and the donkey.

In Isaiah 42, Isaiah saw the Servant of God coming one of these days. 'Behold, My Servant, in whom I delight'. Do you know who looked when God said 'look at My Servant'? Most of the people did not. But these people, the remnant did. In their heart they followed the Lamb. From this point on they followed the Servant. Now towards the end of Isaiah in Isaiah 61, this Servant of the Lord said what He came here for. He said in 61 : 1, *'The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to bring good news to the afflicted. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners'*. The eyes of the Servant of the Lord noticed some people whom He said 'those who mourn in Zion'. So to the people who mourn in Zion, He said, 'You are sad but I will make you happy. You grieve but I will make you able to

praise. I will make you oaks of righteousness which is planted by God for His glory’.

Dear brothers and sisters, the eyes of the Servant were on those who mourn in Zion. Brothers and sisters, today if we do not care about the church, our Master will probably not know what to do with us. But if we care for His church and for His testimony, He will make you and me oaks of righteousness. In Isaiah 62:1, this Servant of the Lord said, ‘For Zion’s sake and for Jerusalem’s sake, I cannot keep silent. I will work until one day Jerusalem is like a torch, and until Jerusalem’s righteousness is seen by people all around.’ A few verses down, in 62:6-7, this Servant of the Lord said, ‘I will set on the wall of Jerusalem my watchmen. They will pray day and night. They will not rest. They will not let Jehovah rest until Jehovah makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth’. Dear brothers and sisters, the heart of the Servant of God is that Jerusalem will become a righteous place, a bright testimony. Now He will set these who care for Him, who are just like that ox and that donkey who know the owner and the Master's crib, and those who mourn in Zion, as watchmen on the wall. They will not be silent just like He will not be silent. They will even shake Jehovah God. They will not let Him rest until He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

Dear brothers and sisters, we often pray together. What do we pray about? These people pray that Jerusalem can be a praise. Today brothers and sisters, do we have the burden to pray that the church of our Lord Jesus Christ will be a praise on earth? Not in the future, not at other places, right where we are. This is what I believe what the Lord really wants.

Three chapters later in Isaiah 65: 8, he gave the picture that the owner of the vineyard was not happy because the grapes were not good. However, there was this cluster where the grapes were so good, so juicy, so sweet, and so fragrant. He called it the ‘new wine in the cluster’. Then He said, ‘But I am talking about My servants’. It was not a single servant. It was multiple servants. So the Lord saw His servants – many servants. He saw that they were so full of life and so full of fragrance. He said they were like new wine – good grapes that could be made into new wine to cheer the heart of the Lord and to bless people.

Then the Lord said for their sake, for this 'new wine in the cluster's' sake, He was not going to destroy the vineyard. And with the servants, it would be the same. Because of these servants, He was not going to destroy Israel as a whole. He still had hope for them. Dear brothers and sisters, how wonderful it is. I believe these servants of the Lord were like those who were like the ox and the donkey. They know their owner. They knew their master's crib. Their hearts grieve the grief of the Lord. They mourned in Zion. They stood on the walls of Jerusalem and prayed. They did not rest. They did not let their God rest until God makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth. They were servants of the Lord. They brought their fragrance to everyone. When the Lord sees them, He has hope for His church, hope for His people. He waits for them to mature.

Dear brothers and sisters, when we see these Old Testament saints, we praise the Lord for them and we are inspired by them. One of these days, if we are faithful to the Lord and follow the Lamb, He will bring us to the very end. That day on Mount Zion, the Lamb will be there. The saints who follow God and who follow the Lamb throughout the generations will be there whether they were in the New Testament or the Old Testament. There will be many, many more. Some we know, some we do not know. Brothers and sisters that is the place we ought to be. That is the place, if you and I are faithful to the Lord and not bogged down by ourselves, we can be there also because that is the will of the Lord. It does not mean this person or that person. Only the Lord knows. The Lamb knows. That is good enough. May all the praises and worship be unto the Lord.

Let us pray:

Lord we are really thankful for Your wonderful thought for us. Lord on one hand we marvel there are so many people who follow You over the years. They follow You and they follow the Lamb. Lord we have that heart too. Lord we pray You will have mercy on us so we will not forget and we will not be bogged down by the world. We pray we will not be bound by ourselves. We pray Your Spirit will set us free to follow You and to follow the Lamb. Lord we really thank You. All the praises, all the honor, and all worship belong to You. In the name of our Lord Jesus we pray, Amen.