

# Week 2 - FOLLOW ME

Watch Lesson 2: Follow Me (28:06 minutes)

## Story Recap

As Gary examines his own life in the wake of Eric's death; he recalls their days of pleasure-seeking rebellion. Driven to the brink by a demanding job and an imploding marriage, Eric collapses in Gary's apartment from a non-fatal heart attack. Convinced he's received a divine wake-up call that must be answered, Eric is never the same again. Now, devastated by the death of his friend, Gary must decide what path he will take.

## Story Questions

So, why did Gary feel disqualified to follow Jesus? Was it because of his bad choices or was it because of something else? What turned him off to following Christ?

The episode closes with Gary knocking on Kyle's door – after a life of ridiculing churchy things and people. Is this ending hokey - sort of fairy tale - or does it have the flavour of reality?

What do you think would be Gary's first question to Kyle – and Kyle's answer?

## Going Deeper

Among the Gospels, there are four separate lists of disciples. In the lists found in Mark, Luke and Acts, we find Matthew described simply by name – “**Matthew**.” Only in the list in Matthew's gospel (Matthew 10:3), is he described as “**Matthew the tax collector**.” If Matthew wrote the Gospel named for him, why would he designate himself as “the tax collector” when he doesn't note the other disciples' occupations?

Read the story of Jesus inviting Matthew to follow him found in Matthew, Mark and Luke and see what stands out.

1. Turn to Matthew 9:9-12. What stands out to you?
2. Now turn to Mark 2:14-17. What stands out?
3. Last, turn to Luke 5:27-32. What do you notice here?

## Personal Challenge

Many sinners hung around Jesus, which seems contradictory to the way it usually is. The irreligious typically don't like being around the religious. If there was a time when you were irreligious, do you recall a 'religious' person whom you wanted to be around despite their convictions? If so, describe that person. What made him or her attractive?

1. What did it take to wake you up? For Eric it was a heart attack. For Gary it is the death of a close friend. What was it for you?
2. When you first came to Christ, did you expect condemnation? What did you receive?
3. Who shaped your definition of following Jesus?
  - a. Was that shaping good or bad? “It is not what we offer Jesus, but what he offers us.” Is that how you see it – more about what He offers than what you offer?
4. A person can live in guilt or in grace.
  - a. What it is like to live in each of these?
5. Why do people tend to stand in judgment of others when we all fall so short ourselves?
6. Here is a very personal question.

Do you have some stains of your own that make it hard to say “yes” to following Jesus even now?