

# I Will Follow You

Sermon Title: **I Will Follow You**

Sermon Number: **4521**

Speaker: **Nathaniel Bronner**

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Nathaniel Bronner: Following God sometimes, it will get tough, but it always works out.

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[Music Playing: 00:00:15 - 00:00:28]

And now for "I Will Follow You".

Nathaniel Bronner: Amen, amen and amen. "I Will Follow You," that's a deep statement. "I Will Follow You," will you? I mean Jesus and his disciples, Jesus had 70, only 12 stayed, and they saw Him in the flesh. So that's what real deep question, 80%. When it got tough, and Jesus said some things, they didn't understand, they didn't agree with, when Jesus said, "Eat of my flesh, drink of my blood." Uh-uh, 80% could not handle it when it got tough. I can tell you the following, God sometimes it will get tough but it always works out. It will get rough, there were some things that you will not understand. As a matter of fact, even with that verse today, we don't fully understand that. He said, "Eat of my flesh, and drink my blood." Can you imagine the (00:01:33)? I just -- you know prick my finger and put some blood in the cup and told you all to come drink, and you all would have a big issue with that. Then if I chopped off a finger and told you to eat that like a chicken drumstick, you would have a real problem with that. So you can imagine how his disciples felt when he told them this. There are some places and there are some things God will often take you, and levels that He will take you to that you simply will not understand. There are some things that you simply will not agree with, and you do not want to do. So following Jesus, his yolk and load is light, but the path is not easy. It never has been and never will be. Will you follow Jesus?

First of all, just to address some housekeeping issues concerning the COVID crisis. We have had about half a dozen cases in the church, so everybody needs to be aware of. It's kind of like when I told you months ago, assume everybody is positive. So, you keep your mask on. Now, we have had cases in the church, but to my knowledge none of the cases came from the church. There has been a huge uptick in cases from Thanksgiving, because folks went home. You all saw your auntie, your cousin, your grandmother. You all understand it. You all saw your ace boon

coon, you all hugged with no mask on. And as a result, there has been a huge uptick in COVID cases after the Thanksgiving holiday. The experts are expecting the identical thing to happen during Christmas, because we're going to go home, we're going to see folks we haven't seen, we don't live with, we go hug and kiss on them with no mask and no social distancing.

Most people who have COVID are asymptomatic. Meaning they have no symptoms, so they're not coughing, you're not sneezing, and nose is not runny, the eyes are not red. So you're not going to know the habit until you come down with it. So, assume everyone is positive and follow what the CDC guidelines indicate, which means if it someone you don't live with, take proper precautions, wear your mask, keep your distance until this thing has subsided. So we have had cases in the church, but to my knowledge there has not been one single cases of anybody catching COVID from the church. But we can't control what you do once you leave here.

You see -- and I go somewhere everywhere. I've been somewhere everywhere. I just got back from Mexico last week. I've been somewhere everywhere, but I am still cautious. I'm not afraid of COVID, but I am cautious with it. I don't go anywhere at in public and around any folks. Number one, I keep my distance and when I do get around folk, I have my mask on, simple as that. So if you take basic precautions -- I've been on planes everywhere, but you can't get on the plane now without keeping your mask on. So, your mask up, I go to the movies. You can't sit in the movies without having your mask on, and if you do take your mask off, there's nobody else around you. So just use some basic common sense and often it's not just for our protection. I'm not afraid of catching cold, because I think I'm going to be in the half that's not going to have any symptoms. I don't catch colds and I've never had the flu.

00:05:01

So I don't think COVID is going to bother me. COVID is just a powerful flu. I don't think it's going to affect me, but it may affect some folks I'm around. So therefore, I'm going to go get another COVID test tomorrow. "Pastor, why, did you got a cold? Did you get --?" No, I don't have any symptoms, but I'm going to Ecuador next week, so I have to had a COVID test to get in Ecuador. Some countries won't let you come into their country without a test

especially if you live in the U.S. because the U.S. has the highest COVID rate in the world, because we are rebellious. The United States folks won't wear masks, they won't social distance. That's what we term by following God -- shoot, we won't follow the CDC much less God. So, the U.S. has the highest COVID, and we're claiming to be the most advanced country on the face of the Earth. We have the highest COVID rate of any major country on the face of the Earth, it's not because the disease is any stronger here, we just won't listen. We absolutely won't listen, and there's a price to be paid when you won't listen to wisdom. It's just a simple as that.

So I'm not telling you to be afraid, I'm just telling you to be wise and to be considerate of other people whose immune systems may not be as strong as yours. So if you get around somebody and their immune system is weak, you're going to take them down. So in the church, we keep our mask on, you don't hug, you don't shake, you can't fist bump, and don't breathe on anybody. It's just as simple as that. Just basic common sense precautions. And even today we're going to even add another safety level in the church. As you leave, we are going to disinfect all of the seats. So we've got a disinfectant spray that I came in Thursday, and I soak one of the seats to make sure it's not going to mess up the fabric, and it didn't. So, we're going to spray all of the seats down, the minute people leave the church and the disinfectant kills the COVID virus within 60 seconds.

This is what I told you all months ago. You may catch COVID, but you never going to catch it here, because we can't control what you do when you leave here. When you get here, you're going to have your temperature taken, we're going to social distance, we're going to keep our mask on. So you may catch COVID, but you're not going to catch it here. Yes, it's just basic common sense, but we're taking it up to another level of even sanitizing all of the seats, even though there's very little surface COVID transmission. Most COVID transmission is airborne, it's not surface transmitted. It's possible, but it is highly unlikely. You only caught this stuff on seats, uh-uh. You don't catch it that is because you don't hug. You catch it with no mask, that's why you got COVID, but we're still going to take maximum precaution. Temperature helps, but only one out of 12 people who have COVID have a temperature, so it really still didn't catch most COVID, but it is a precaution. So, we're taking every possible precaution, the mask and social distancing is still your biggest

protection outside of a strong immune system. That's your biggest protection, period. If you catch it, you're not going to have any symptoms and it's not going to bother you. That's just the part of the housekeeping to let you know we're doing all that we can do to keep you safe, but COVID is not the thing is messing up most of folks.

Most of the stuff we're afraid of, we talk about is not really the thing, just messing up most folks. It's has messing up a lot of folks, but it's not the thing that's messing up most folks. And if we can just stay within God's guidelines whatever we do for our lives. If we can just follow what God has told us to do. But that has always been man's issues since he has been in the dark. He didn't have a one rule. You never have one rule.

I remember mom's Mabley(ph), the old black comedian, she said, "I ain't got but one nerve left, and you don't get on that. God didn't give us to start with but one rule, because you can do anything you want to do, just don't eat of this one tree. All these other trees, you can eat all you want, and you can partake of the Tree of Life, just don't eat of this one tree. That's the only rule you got, just don't eat of this one tree. One rule, one rule. All we have but one thing to do, don't eat -- the garden was just full of threes. You can eat up all these other trees, including the Tree of Life, just don't eat of this one tree. You got one rule to follow, just one rule.

So from the very beginning, man has been stubborn and disobedient, and no we have not followed God, and we have not followed Jesus, nor have we followed the doctor, nor have we followed the CDC. And as a result we get cast out of paradise.

So that's just some basic stuff that as we move into an entirely new season, I want us to be healthy in all of the areas of our lives. And as we move towards that, some of us will need to make some changes. And some of those changes is just listen to wisdom. That's all it is, it's just listening to wisdom. And as we listen, our results will get higher and higher, and better and better. Bow your heads.

00:10:08

Dear Heavenly Father, I just again sit before, thankful for all that you have done, for all that you've embraced us with, for all that you have kept us from. You have protected us in so many ways,

and Lord even when we've had to go through the wilderness, you brought us through. You've given us strength to carry heavy loads when we have to carry your load. You given us peace of mind when we have to deal with tribulation. Father when we have we have circumstances that we cannot change, you'd given us peace and understanding even in the midst of the storm. And father, I just thank you, and I thank you for the realization that I had even yesterday, that even if I were to die right now, I've lived a full life. I have nothing to complain about. I have only praise for you, so anything from this point forward is grace. Father, I thank you for all that you have done, all that you have granted, all that you have forgiven, and all that you shall do. In thy Son, Jesus' name, I pray that you take control of my mind, my spirit, every word that I shall breathe forth and open the hearts and minds of the people that they shall receive today that which you shall pour forth upon them. In thy Son, Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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