

# Ridin' High Cowboy Church

8771 FM 35  
Union Valley, TX

Pastor: Steve Bishop

## MISSION STATEMENT

*Ride out and round up the lost cowboys and cowgirls  
Everywhere so they can know our Savior, Jesus Christ.*

### **October 11, 2015 ~ What's the Payoff at the End of the Road for Following Jesus...**

It may surprise you what it is...at the end of your life you'll say, "I'm so glad I followed Jesus because\_\_\_\_\_."

It's not, "you will be a better person" although that is true. Jesus never went around saying follow me and you will be a better person.

It's not even, "follow me so that you can go to heaven" (the thief on the cross never followed Jesus and he went to heaven that day). Jesus very seldom talked about heaven, he talked about the Kingdom of God.

It's not follow Jesus and you will have a pain free/problem free life. Any time you hear someone say, "If you do these three things, or pray a certain prayer or pray a certain way" then God will do this \_\_\_\_\_...that's magic, that's not following Jesus. All magic works some of the time...

All through the New Testament, Jesus talks about what we are going to talk about today...

Background: Early in Jesus' ministry, the twelve followers or disciples are picked and then Jesus sets them down and tells them what they are going to do, what to take with them, what to wear and how to do what Jesus is doing.

***Matthew 10*** <sup>16</sup> ***"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. <sup>17</sup>Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues.*** (at this point they were very popular and had a big crowd everywhere they went but Jesus was saying you will be permanently marked on your body for following me, as you read the New Testament you see this is true, (very clear in the book of Acts)

<sup>18</sup> ***"On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. <sup>19</sup>But when (not if) they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be***

**given what to say, <sup>20</sup>for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.** (I think the disciples were thinking, “we’re going to be arrested put on trial and flogged” and in the middle of this God is going to speak for me. If God is in the middle of all this why doesn’t he just keep it from happening!)

<sup>21</sup>**“Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. <sup>22</sup>You will be hated by everyone because of me.** (11 of the 12 kept following Jesus to the end)

Jesus goes on about the bad things that can happen to you and then he says, <sup>28</sup> **Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell** (Jesus’ followers did not get this until the end, it took quite a bit of time for them to understand what Jesus was saying.)

<sup>29</sup>**Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. <sup>30</sup>And even the very hairs on your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup>So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.**

Jesus takes us to a place where we are so secure in the fact that God loves us, that even the thought of death doesn’t bring fear.

Jesus did not say, “don’t be afraid AND bad things won’t happen.” (that is magic)

Jesus said, “Don’t be afraid WHEN bad things happen.” (that is the confidence in God)

What would life look like today if I was completely confident that God was with me?

*Following Jesus turns fear into faith.*

Over and over, Jesus talked about this principle.

Sermon on the Mount – Jesus said, “you of little faith, don’t worry about what you will eat, drink or wear” When you have confidence in God, you will not worry about what you eat, drink or wear.

Mark 4 Jesus and disciples on the boat, waves pick up and they are about to drown, they wake Jesus up and he says, “Why were you afraid?” Then they feared Jesus more than they feared the storm.

This is all through the New Testament. I wonder why Jesus didn’t just say, ‘follow me and your life will be great.’

Have you ever met anybody like that? The world is falling apart and they say, “we’ll have to see what God is up to”... “we just have to trust God” ... “this doesn’t take God by surprise.”

We think they’re just in denial, or they are on medication or need to be, but the longer we are around them, we learn it’s their confidence in God, their faith.

The apostle Paul understood this principle.

***Romans 8*** <sup>28</sup>***And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.***

<sup>35</sup>***Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?” As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”***

<sup>37</sup>***No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.*** <sup>38</sup>***For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,*** <sup>39</sup>***neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.***