

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

FOLLOWING the LEADER

Text: "And he saith unto them, follow me," Matt. 4:19

These words of Jesus were meant to be taken seriously and for all time. Who of us today would dare address them to any of our fellow men; even to our children?

We do, of course, seek to influence others by our word and example. Yet there can be no doubt that he did say, and still says, "Follow me," and there is no escape from the inner meaning and implication of these words. Christianity reduced to the simplest language and to its main essential means following Christ; walking his way; copying him, in the sense of showing forth in our lives his spirit. It means accepting his leadership. When men are called to become Christians they are called to be his followers.



Rev. D.M. Clark

There is, of course, great comfort and strength to be found in this truth that in embracing Christianity we are asked to be followers of Christ. It means that we are not asked to take a leap into the dark. We are not asked to follow an untried way, nor to launch out into an uncharted sea. What we have to do is to follow; to walk a way that has been walked before. It was walked by Jesus and has been walked by countless others before us. It is a known and tried way we are asked to follow.

But if this much is true, bringing as it does comfort and strength and inspiration, it is also true that this invitation of Jesus presents us with a challenge and with a demand. Following implies effort and discipline. The way is open, but we have to follow it. Leadership requires a response, and unless response is forthcoming leadership will prove of little avail. If men and nations refuse to follow the way of Christ they cannot, and will not, enter into fullness of life.

First, our following implies a dedication of ourselves to Him. It means a personal response which we, ourselves, have to make. It implies a personal commitment of our lives to His way of life. Now Jesus did not ask the first disciples to wait until they felt worthy to become his followers. He called them that he might make them disciples.

Second, following implies a dedication of ourselves not only to Christ, but to one another. Jesus called men into a fellowship; the fellowship which later inevitably became the Christian Church. It was a group of men he called, a group of men he invited to eat and drink with him at the Last Supper, not simply a number of isolated individuals. It is of the very essence of Christianity that the followers of Christ should join their fellow Christians in the fellowship and service of the Church.

Both these truths have other and far-reaching implications, but taken together they are fundamental and essential. This is what is meant and implied in following Christ. These are the



AT OUR CHURCHES

DEADline for church news and photographs is Friday noon preceding the next Thursday publication date at the Rev. Mr. Clark's home, 1676 N. 'E' St., telephone 642-1560. All items submitted must be accompanied by the sender's name, address and telephone number.

BAPTIST

GRACE EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. C.L. Alexander, 384-7413
815 Bartlett, Vegas Hts.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. I. W. Wilson, 382-2632
400 Adams Ave., Las Vegas

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. M. Carroll
712 W. Owens Ave., Las Vegas

ST. JAMES BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. J. L. Simmons, 382-2748
311 Madison Ave., Las Vegas

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. V. C. L. Coleman, 384-3131
1209 N. "E" St., Las Vegas

EVERGREEN BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. A. B. Carr, 382-5682
1113 N. "H" St., Las Vegas

NEW JERUSALEM BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. F. N. Addison
"D" & Jefferson Sts., Las Vegas

two basic requirements--a personal dedication to Christ and to one another in fellowship and service. This is where we begin. We are faced with a choice. The call which comes to most of us is a call to accept one way of life or another; to choose a leader and then to follow him. So man's ultimate destiny and happiness depends upon the leader he chooses. We are all free to make the choice.

Gospel Train Here Friday

Five outstanding vocal groups, comprising the Gospel Train of 1964, will present a jamboree of song at the Las Vegas High School Auditorium tomorrow night (July 17) at 8 p.m.

Taking part in one of the summer's outstanding musical events will be the Rev. James Cleveland's group, including Odessa McCastle, Burma Floyd, Rodger Roberts, James Page and Allen Clark, manager; the Caravans of Chicago, including Shirley Caesar, Cassieta George, Dolores Washington, Josephine Howard, Albertina Walker, manager, and James Herndon, pianist; the Soul Stirrers, also of Chicago; the Mighty Clouds of Joy from Los Angeles, and the Swanee Quintet of Augusta, Ga.

GREATER FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. P. S. Walker, 384-1248
Balzar St., Vegas Hts.

PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. J. L. Kemp, 642-5708
1189 Hassell St., Vegas Hts.

PILGRIM REST BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. E. C. Kline, 382-7263
101 N. "A" St., Las Vegas

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. A. J. Thompson, 642-4001
1305 N. "E" St., Las Vegas

CATHOLIC

ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH
Msgr. W. J. Devlin, 382-9953
"H" & Morgan Sts., Las Vegas

Sunday Mass--11 a.m. and 5 p.m.
Week Day Mass--7:30 p.m. each evening
Confession--Saturday 4 and 7:30 p.m.

CHURCH of GOD in CHRIST

UPPER ROOM C. of G. in C.
Bishop C. C. Cox, 385-1541
1117 N. "F" St., Las Vegas

POWERHOUSE C. of G. in C.
Supt. J. W. Logan, 382-6187
1216 Adams Ave., Las Vegas

MOST HIGH C. of G. in C.
Eld. J. Washington, 642-5675
Henderson

PROGRESSIVE C. of G. in C.
Eld. Jos. Prudhomme, 642-5556
1155 Lawry Ave., Vegas Hts.

LIGHTHOUSE C. of G. in C.
Eld. Willie Rawls, 384-5539
E. Sahara Ave., Fourmyle

PRAYER HOUSE C. of G. in C.
Eld. W. M. Shaw, 382-1743
Blankenship St., Vegas Hts.

(All Churches of God in Christ)

Tuesday 8 pm - - - - - Bible Band
Wednesday 8 pm - - - - - *Young People
Friday 8 pm - - - - - Consecration
Sunday 10 am - - - - - Sunday School
Sunday 12 m - - - - - Morning Service
Sunday 6:30 pm - - - - - - YPW
Sunday 8 pm - - - - - Evening Worship

*Progressive - - - - - Inspirational

METHODIST

ZION METHODIST CHURCH
Rev. M. D. Bennett, 382-9900
911 N. "G" St., Las Vegas



WOMEN'S AUXILIARY--These members of Women's Department of Pride of the West District Association played prominent parts in recent 18th annual convocation at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church. Front (from left) Mrs. C.L. Alexander, Mrs. J.L. Simmons, Mrs. S.E. Jeffries, president, Ida Howard and Mrs. Beulah Jones. Rear (from left) Mrs. Della Booth, Mary V. Smith, Mrs. Letha Thomas, Mrs. Mary Dexter and Mamie Tigner.



READING ENTHUSIASTS--These are some of children participating in second Summer Library Program at Matt Kelly School under direction of Mrs. Charlotte Cook and Mrs. Verna Ware. Included are Gregory, Brenda and Jimmy McCurdy; Larry, Don and Clifton Coleman; Ruth Andrea Simmons, Ann and Ronnie Parker; Caroline and Levonia Glasco; Milo Harris, Jerry Jacobs, Patricia Williams, Timothy Shaw, Fred Carter and Randy Lindsey. (See additional photo page 11)