christian advance archives

# advance in discipleship – How long have you followed jesus – 05/22/18

**HOW LONG HAVE YOU FOLLOWED JESUS?**

A friend of mine said he had been following Jesus for thirty-nine years. I congratulated him and we parted. Thinking about my own walk I thought to myself, how many years have I really been following Jesus. My first ten were really just about getting to know who Jesus is and what He had done for me. The second stage was working real hard to show Him how much I loved Him ... but follow? Over three decades have passed since my profession of faith but I certainly could not honestly say I had followed Jesus all these years.

I am not sure if that was what my friend meant or not. Then I read Mark 10:35 and the story of James and John asking to sit at the right hand and left hand of Jesus. They had been with Jesus from the beginning (Mark 1:19-20). Yet, all that time had not produced clarity and understanding. They are still asking foolish, self-centered, self-advancing questions of Jesus.

The time that really matters is the time you actually spend "following" Jesus, doing what He asks, obeying His teaching. That's where the growth takes place. That's where the intimacy with Jesus develops. How many years has it been since you confessed your faith in Jesus? How many years have you actually followed Him?