

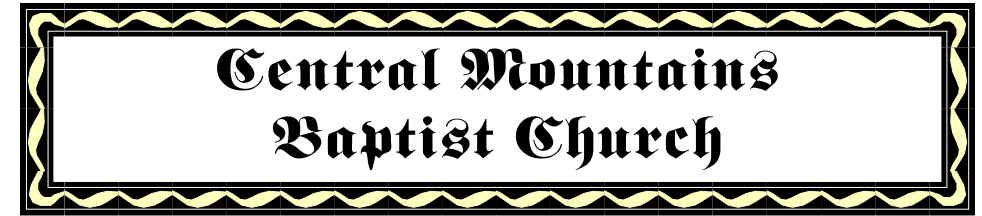
Long after we negotiated that section of road, I continued to ponder the sign. I saw it as a vivid three-word summary of what it means to follow Christ.

When Jesus called Peter and Andrew to be His disciples, "they immediately left their nets and followed Him" (Matthew 4:20). At that moment, it was as if God placed this sign on the road of their lives: Changed Priorities Ahead. He does the same in our lives as we hear Christ calling us to follow Him.

Jesus taught that our natural concern for material needs must be replaced by seeking God's kingdom first and trusting Him to provide (6:33). When He associated with "sinners" and invited a despised tax collector to become one of His disciples, He challenged our prejudices (9:9-13). Jesus also rebuked our jockeying for position when He said, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all" (Mark 9:35).

When we follow Jesus Christ, we discover that changed priorities are necessary to negotiate the road ahead.

**When we accept Jesus' invitation to follow Him, our whole life changes direction.**



**MAY 5, 2019**

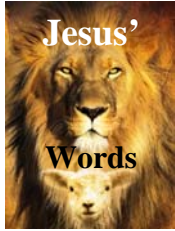
## **Changed Priorities**

**They immediately left their nets and followed Him. —Matthew 4:20**

The sign alongside the road in England said, "Changed Priorities Ahead."

When I asked what it meant, someone explained, "The road signs will have changed from what drivers were used to"





# Faces of Pride

In Mark 9:30-37 (and parallel passages) a stark contrast is made:

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the disciples; thinking that I \_\_\_\_\_ the place of \_\_\_\_\_;

attention to \_\_\_\_\_, verses 34, 10:35-37

**(Matthew 18:1)** "... Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

**(Luke 9:47)** "And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, ..."



**(Luke 22:24)** "Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest."

**(Jeremiah 17:9)** "'The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?'"

**(Isaiah 14:12-14)** "'How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! {13} For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; {14} I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'"

2. Christ's \_\_\_\_\_; taking the place of the \_\_\_\_\_; attention to \_\_\_\_\_,

◆ Jesus example

**(Matthew 17:24)** "When they had come to Capernaum, those who received the temple tax came to Peter and said, "Does your Teacher not pay the temple tax?"

**(Exodus 30:13-14)** "'This is what everyone ..shall give: half a shekel .. {14} "Everyone .., from twenty years old and above, shall give an offering to the LORD."

**(Matthew 17:25)** "He said, "Yes."

And when he had come into the house, Jesus anticipated him, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take customs or taxes, from their sons or from

strangers?"

**(Matthew 17:26)** Peter said to Him, "From strangers." Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are free."

**(Malachi 3:1)** "'Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, ..."

**(Matthew 17:27)** "'Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you.'"

◆ Jesus teaching, verses 35-36

**(Matthew 18:3-4)** "... Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. {4} "Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

**(1 John 1:9)** "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

**(Philippians 2:3)** "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself."

**(Luke 9:48)** "... Whoever receives this little child in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me. For he who is least among you all will be great."

**(Matthew 25:34-40)** "'Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: {35} for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; {36} 'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' {37} "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? {38} 'When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? {39} 'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' {40} "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'"

