# AFTER CHURCH DEVI

# **Topic: Follow Me - New Practices**

## **Opening Prayer:**

"O Lord, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am!" (Psalm 39:4). Heavenly Father, show us what truly matters and help us to live with our eyes set on Your kingdom. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

#### Read: Matthew 19:21

In Matthew 19:21, Jesus responds to a young man who earnestly asks what he must do to gain eternal life. Jesus' reply is both straightforward and challenging: "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." For this young man, obedience would mean a radical shift in lifestyle—embracing new practices that aligned his heart with God's priorities.

The Greek word for "perfect" here, teleios, means "complete" or "whole." Jesus was inviting the young man into a complete relationship with God, free from any competing loyalties. To follow Jesus, the young man was asked to give up practices centered on accumulating earthly wealth and embrace a life devoted to generosity, compassion, and trust in God. Jesus' response was not just about wealth; it was about a new way of living that reshapes our habits, practices, and focuses in light of God's eternal kingdom.

For us, following Jesus means allowing Him to transform not just our beliefs but also our daily practices. This might look like prioritizing time with God over other pursuits, serving those in need, or giving generously. Each of these practices helps us align with Christ's call to seek "treasure in heaven" over earthly gain. By embracing new, kingdom-centered practices, we deepen our dependence on Jesus, finding freedom and purpose that earthly pursuits cannot provide.

#### Conclusion:

Following Jesus means taking on new practices that reflect His values—habits of generosity, service, and devotion that shift our focus from temporary gains to eternal rewards. When we put these practices into action, we find that life with Jesus is richer, more fulfilling, and far more lasting than anything the world can offer.

# **Discussion Questions:**

### For Students:

What new habits could help you grow closer to Jesus? How might your daily choices look different if you pursued these?

#### For Parents:

How can we model a lifestyle that values God's kingdom over material things to our children?

#### For Professionals:

What changes could you make to practice generosity or service in your workplace or community?

This week, choose one new practice to help you pursue God's kingdom—whether it's giving to someone in need, volunteering, or setting aside time each day for prayer. Let this practice be an offering, showing your commitment to follow Jesus in full surrender.