

# What's It Look Like?

John Cole / General

The Journey, Becoming a Disciple / Discipleship / Matthew 4:18–25

When we consider what all Jesus has done and will do, it motivates us to follow Him. What does that look like?

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## › INTRO

### **10,000 Sermon Illustrations** Angus McGillivray Gave It All

#### Angus McGillivray Gave It All

In Ernest Gordon's true account of life in a World War II Japanese prison camp, *Through the Valley of the Kwai*, there is a story that never fails to move me. It is about a man who through giving it all away literally transformed a whole camp of soldiers. The man's name was Angus McGillivray. Angus was a Scottish prisoner in one of the camps filled with Americans, Australians, and Britons who had helped build the infamous Bridge over the River Kwai. The camp had become an ugly situation. A dog-eat-dog mentality had set in. Allies would literally steal from each other and cheat each other; men would sleep on their packs and yet have them stolen from under their heads. Survival was everything. The law of the jungle prevailed...until the news of Angus McGillivray's death spread throughout the camp. Rumors spread in the wake of his death. No one could believe big Angus had succumbed. He was strong, one of those whom they had expected to be the last to die. Actually, it wasn't the fact of his death that shocked the men, but the reason he died. Finally they pieced together the true story.

The Argylls (Scottish soldiers) took their buddy system very seriously. Their buddy was called their "mucker," and these Argylls believed that it was literally up to each of them to make sure their "mucker" survived. Angus's mucker, though, was dying, and everyone had given up on him, everyone, of course, but Angus.

He had made up his mind that his friend would not die. Someone had stolen his mucker's blanket. So Angus gave him his own, telling his mucker that he had "just come across an extra one."

Likewise, every mealtime, Angus would get his rations and take them to his

friend, stand over him and force him to eat them, again stating that he was able to get “extra food.” Angus was going to do anything and everything to see that his buddy got what he needed to recover.

But as Angus’s mucker began to recover, Angus collapsed, slumped over, and died. The doctors discovered that he had died of starvation complicated by exhaustion. He had been giving of his own food and shelter. He had given everything he had—even his very life. The ramifications of his acts of love and unselfishness had a startling impact on the compound. “Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:12).

As word circulated of the reason for Angus McGillivray’s death, the feel of the camp began to change. Suddenly, men began to focus on their mates, their friends, and humanity of living beyond survival, of giving oneself away. They began to pool their talents—one was a violin maker, another an orchestra leader, another a cabinet maker, another a professor. Soon the camp had an orchestra full of homemade instruments and a church called the “Church Without Walls” that was so powerful, so compelling, that even the Japanese guards attended. The men began a university, a hospital, and a library system. The place was transformed; an all but smothered love revived, all because one man named Angus gave all he had for his friend. For many of those men this turnaround meant survival. What happened is an awesome illustration of the potential unleashed when one person actually gives it all away.

Holy Sweat, Tim Hansel, 1987, Word Books Publisher, pp. 146-147

On a much grander scale, that’s what Jesus did in His earthly life and ministry: inspire others to follow His example.

## › PROP

When we consider what all Jesus has done and will do, it motivates us to follow Him.

He inspires follow-ship.

He invites discipleship.

## › TRANS

But what does that look like?

What would you do on the journey of becoming a disciple?

Today, we will begin to address those questions.

We will not describe all it means to become a disciple of Jesus; if we tried to do that, we would sit and listen and never get started.

Let's look at three actions you will take on the journey.

# YOU LEARN

## From God

**John 6:45 KJV 1900**

It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

**Matthew 11:29 KJV 1900**

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

**John 14:26 KJV 1900**

But the Comforter, *which* is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

## From Believers

**Philippians 4:9 KJV 1900**

Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

**1 Corinthians 11:1 KJV 1900**

Be ye followers of me, even as I also *am* of Christ.

**Philippians 3:17 KJV 1900**

Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye

have us for an ensample.

**2 Thessalonians 3:7 KJV 1900**

For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

## For Good

**Titus 3:14 KJV 1900**

And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.

**3 John 11 KJV 1900**

Beloved, follow not *that which is* evil, but *that which is* good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.

# YOU FOLLOW

Peter and Andrew

**Matthew 4:19 KJV 1900**

And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

James and John

**Matthew 4:21 KJV 1900**

And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James *the son* of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them.

Matthew

**Matthew 9:9 KJV 1900**

And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him.

Philip

**John 1:43 KJV 1900**

The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.

## Follow Immediately

**Matthew 8:21–22 KJV 1900**

And another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.

But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.

See also Mt 4:20; Mt 4:22

## Follow Sacrificially

**Matthew 10:38 KJV 1900**

And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

**10,000 Sermon Illustrations Cost of Crosses**

Cost of Crosses

Clarence Jordan, author of the "Cotton Patch" New Testament translation and founder of the interracial Koinonia farm in Americus, Georgia, was getting a red-carpet tour of another minister's church. With pride the minister pointed to the rich, imported pews and luxurious decoration. As they stepped outside, darkness was falling, and a spotlight shone on a huge cross atop the steeple.

"That cross alone cost us ten thousand dollars," the minister said with a satisfied smile.

"You got cheated," said Jordan. "Times were when Christians could get them for free."

Michael Jenkins

Source unknown

**10,000 Sermon Illustrations Quote**

A religion that gives nothing, costs nothing, and suffers nothing, is worth nothing. - M. Luther

## Follow Completely

**Matthew 10:37–39 KJV 1900**

<sup>37</sup> He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

<sup>38</sup> And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

<sup>39</sup> He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

**John 8:31 KJV 1900**

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed;

## YOU TRANSFORM

### As Planned by God

**Romans 8:29 KJV 1900**

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

### As Powered by Hope

**1 John 3:2–3 KJV 1900**

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.