

# COLLOQUIES with Pastor Brian

## Following Jesus Further On the Path of Discipleship

Dear Friends,

Sunday's scripture in the Gospel of John features Jesus calling of the disciples. In it, these curious future followers of Jesus ask "Messiah, where are you staying" to which Jesus replies, "Come and see". We've paired this scripture with a song from Little Peggy March called "I Will Follow Him," which many might remember featured prominently in the movie Sister Act.

Pairing these secular lyrics with a Christian message is obviously not new; this was the entire premise of the Sister Act movie. However, there is more to this story worth exploring. Considered by many in America a 'one hit wonder,' Little Peggy March continued her singing career much later into her life performing in another language AND releasing songs that charted many times in Germany, hitting the top 10 at least four different times.

Little Peggy March (Margaret Annemarie Battavio) then attained great success, but only after she was willing to grow and change in her pursuit of a musical career. We, who evaluate her career, would misunderstand the outcomes if we didn't hear the "rest of the story," as Paul Harvey liked to say.

So often I meet people who have been indoctrinated to the idea that following Christ is a once / always premise. We fall into the trap of thinking that success comes from saying once, "Hey, we'll follow this guy" yet fail to see what following actually looks like.

Peter in particular hit great highs and new lows in his own discipleship, being called 'Satan' at one time by none other than Jesus, denying Jesus when it mattered most AND quitting the disciples and returning to his old job of fishing.

Of course, we know in the end that Jesus found Peter and the other disciples back at their nets and Jesus redeemed their failure with his forgiveness. But how often do we lift this up as a pattern of successful discipleship?

Jesus said "Come and see." Peggy March sang, "I will follow him." In neither scenario was success actually promised. But that wasn't the point, was it? Jesus only asks that we keep showing up. The rest is up to him. And, for those of us who have been doing this following for a while, we can testify that the path is not smooth or easy. But when we fail (and boy, howdy do we fail), Jesus tends to show back up and invite us to keep on following.

So what do you say? Can we pledge once again, this week to follow Jesus further in his path of discipleship?

Come and see. Until Sunday, Peace.

Pastor Brian

