

# Will You Come And Follow Me?: John Bell & Graham Maule (1987)<sup>1</sup>

**Visualisation:** Polydirectional

**Analysis:** I don't say that the challenge isn't good; I do say both that Jesus doesn't sing it, and that I am not Jesus. It is hard voxdeism. Some phrases are not simply a challenge to do right, they challenge as to what is right. Eg, is kissing the lepers (they prefer, *the leprous*) the way forward? To show the milk of human kindness is good, and to touch is safe. But Jesus possibly never met what we call medically *lepers*. He could, against taboo, touch in healing some from skin diseases that made them, through no fault of their own, culturally outcasts (Mk.1:41). True leprosy (Hanson's Disease) is today curable by medication, and even prosthetic limbs can be used. If the song is about *social* lepers, outcasts, it should say so.

Personally I don't think we need, or should ask, the lord (to me, *Jesus* seems strongly implied) to *let/allow* us to *follow* him—he's laid the road for us, not put up a barrier. Asking the lord, rather than God, is misdirection.

Besides implying a barrier, the song seems to me to imply that we're ready & willing, just awaiting access—in *your company I'll go*: thus boast. The boot's on the other foot! Incidentally, I prefer "walking with Jesus" to be put as walking with the spirit as guide. It also implies that we're not already on the discipleship road—some are, some are not. To *turn* may needlessly, or needfully, invoke the concept of repentance (μετάνοια/*metanoia*)—depends on the Christian. It is a one-size fits all approach.

The stanzas all keep the rhyme, *name/same* for lines 1&2, always rhyme for lines 3&4, and always keep the end words *you/me*, for lines 5&6. A lively song, it has much to offer, encouraging socio-spiritual engagement in line with Christification.

**Suggestions:** Thoroughly replace the approach, eg, *will you let my name be known*, by *we should let his name be known*. In addition, replace *let me turn and follow*, by *I desire to follow*; *in your company I'll go*, by *with the/your spirit I would go*.

BAG	A	B	C	D	E	F	G <sup>1,2</sup>	H <sup>1,2</sup>	I	J <sup>1,2,3</sup>	K	L	M	Total	Grade
	-	-	-	-	-	-	48	-	12	-	8	-	-	32	D-

<sup>1</sup> [www.whatdidjesussay.com/follow-me](http://www.whatdidjesussay.com/follow-me)

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A = Mixed Themes (-4); B = Incompleteness (-4); C = Archaism (-8);

D = Blessing God (-4); E = Buddy or Boyfriend (-4); F = Polytheism (-8); G = Voxdeism: Soft (-24), Hard (-48);

H = Unitarianism: Soft (-60), Hard (-72); I = Misdirection (-12); J = Misvisualisation: Soft (-12), Mid (-24),

Hard (-36); K = Boasting (-8); L = Decontextualising (-8); M = Hermit Harakiri (-12)