

"LIFE THROUGH THE LENS"



EYES OPEN – BLINDLY FOLLOWING – OR?

Appearing as if each is rusted to his place, these "Rusty Birds" typically stand in a circle on the lawn. Not doing much and saying even less.

But, today, they were in line, head to tail, looking like they were going somewhere, heading for the road. Concerned for their safety, I asked, "Where are you going, fellas?"

The only answer came from "Tailing Charlie". "Dun-no. Were just following him!" I was about to suggest, "Following someone and not knowing where you are going sounds a pretty dumb idea." Fortunately, my brain caught up with the thought, "How many times have I done that?"

It is so easy to follow someone or some group or an idea because it either looks exciting or will get us something we want, like a financial reward, admiration of others, a group to belong to, or to have friends.

Nightly, the newscasts demonstrate this phenomenon as our TV screens fill with images of "Followers" thrusting placards or flags towards the sky while bellowing and repeating the thoughtless obscenities of someone with a megaphone, with little regard for "why", "reason", or "understanding". Once, one took the time to learn about the leader and find out where they were leading you. The emphasis now appears to be on "following", even if it leads to a confrontation with the elected law and negligent, willful destruction.

A little over two thousand years ago, a bloke called Jesus called to twelve men, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people (**Matthew 4:19**). He also listed his credentials to lead with the words, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (**John 14:6**). And what was to be the outcome of "following"? A friendship with the God of love who **guaranteed** a spirit which brought to life love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against these things there is no law." (**Galatians 5:22-23**)

The difference between Jesus and many of today's "leaders" is he does not call for "blind following". Instead, he encourages, "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world." (**1 John 4:1**)

Try checking out what Jesus says about himself in the Bible. Quietly talk to him about your questions, and listen for his quiet, gentle answers.

You might be surprised where he leads you. AND who he wants you to lead to a life of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.