

“Walking with Christ.”

Being a fine Christian example

By: Deacon Rick Lawlor

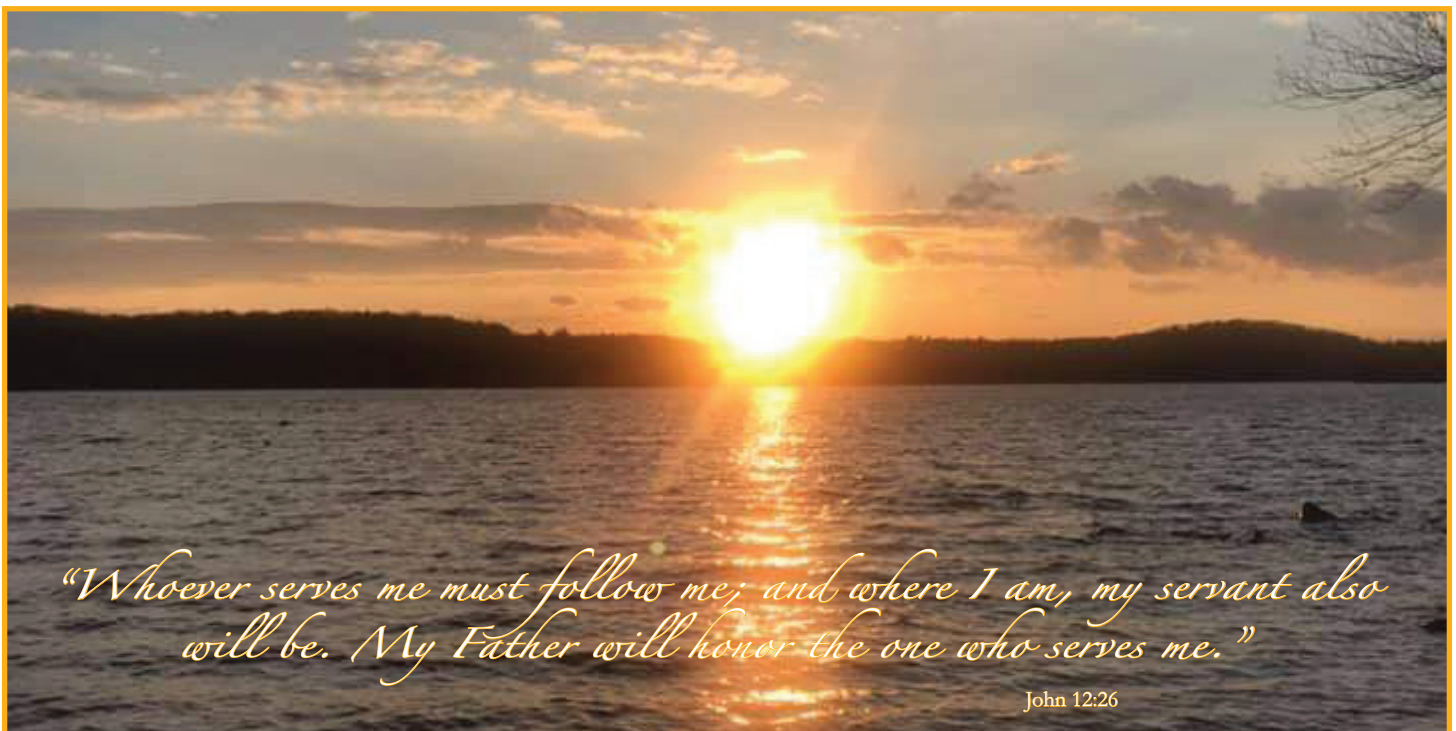
Not long ago I came across a story about Mohammed Ali, the great boxer, Olympic champion and former Christian. Born into a southern Christian family Ali was born with the name Cassius Clay. Mohammed Ali converted to Islam in the early 1960's after being very turned off and rejected by his fellow Southern Christians. The story goes like this: The 1960 Summer Olympics were held in Rome, Clay proudly represented our country, The United States of America. After winning the Gold Medal in boxing, Clay returned home to a less than warm and welcoming nation. On one particular day as he walked into a diner in Mississippi he sat down and ordered a hot dog and a cup of coffee. He was refused service as the waitress, a Southern Christian exclaimed **“we don't serve negros here!”** Clay admits he was angry and turned off by hate filled, Southern Christians and decided that was the last day he was going to be a Christian.

When interviewed many years later, he said I represented my country well, bringing home the gold medal and I couldn't even order a hot dog at a local diner. I wanted nothing to do with Christians. Clay converted to Islam, changing his name to Mohammed Ali.

My friends, as Christians we must reflect and live our lives in Jesus Christ. This means we must represent the truth and stand up against social injustice. We must be the face of Jesus, in a sometimes dark and evil world. As Christians we must resist the temptation to “go with the flow” or the “status quo.” As Christians we are challenged to see Christ in everyone, even those we strongly dislike and this is not always easy. As Christians our actions are being watched and we are being judged by many. We never want to place ourselves into a position where we side with our secular culture over the natural law of God, for that would be a terrible mistake.

Therefore, my dear fellow Christians, embrace the love and beauty of Christ and love one another as Jesus loves us. Reject the wrong ways of our culture when needed and stand up for the truth, the truth of Jesus Christ. Living our lives as Christians is a beautiful, love filled life. Be the reason others want to follow Jesus, and not turn away.

May Almighty God Bless you today and Always.



“Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.”

John 12:26