Should a Christian Attend the Movie Theater?



Pastor Kelly Sensenig

There is much controversy between Christians over this question. Some say that a Christian may attend the cinema or movies; others say they may not attend. For many Christians today they would not even question attending such a place as the theater for

everyone seems to be doing it and it seems to be an acceptable part of the lives of most Christians. But remember that what is popular is not always right and what is right is not always popular. We must base our decision on the Bible truth of being separated from the world (1 John 2:15-17).

If we want to practice Bible separation there are various reasons why we should not attend the movie theater.

Because of the holiness of God.

Refusing to attend the movie theater can be one way you can express holiness in your life. "For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy" (Lev. 11:44). The word holiness means to be set apart unto God and from the world system which is



against God. The movie theater represents a place that promotes the most wicked and vile filth that this world has to offer today. The movie theater stands for sex, sins, and sensual living of the worst kind. It's a place which openly glorifies the total depravity of man. The sins of adultery, homosexuality, lesbianism, and the occult are openly promoted and glorified in movie theaters. This should be reason enough not to attend the movie theater.

Why would a Christian want to grace his holy presence in a place such as this? The holiness of God should drive us away from these open pits of sin. Titus 2:3 speaks about possessing a type of behavior "as becometh holiness" or which is fitting, proper, and conducive to holiness. Ephesians 5:3-4 also talks about living in a manner "as becometh saints" (befitting to Christian living) and mentions there are those things that "are not convenient" (proper or suitable) for a Christian to do. Attending a theater where terrible and sinful atrocities are promoted is not conduct that is becoming to a saint or one who is to be set apart from the world and represent Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 4:7 states that "God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness." Holiness means we are to be separated unto God and steer away from those things and places that do not represent God and reveal on a giant screen the most wicked and vilest sins known to mankind.

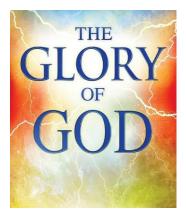
In other words, a Christian should not attend the movie theater because of the overall message of what the theater represents and portrays. It makes no difference if a so-called religious movie is being played. The movie theater is a den of iniquity that can easily be avoided if one wants to practice separation. The term holiness ("Be ye holy; for I am holy" - 1 Pet. 1:16) means to be separate from that which is evil and that which is unholy.

To attend the movie theater which is a place that promotes wicked and vile sins is a breach of the holiness of God. It's like the Corinthians who were attending the temple feasts. Paul told them because of what occurs in these places they were to not attend these specific eating places: "I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils" or demons (1 Cor. 10;20). In other words, certain places were off limits because of the terrible sins and wickedness occurring in these places. Attending them would cause them in some way to identify (fellowship) with the pagan practices and ways occurring in these places.

We are not representing God's holiness and therefore glorifying God when attending these dens of iniquity. Some of the worst sins of the human race are known to be promoted in the movie theater. The Bible tells us that we are "to be holy in all manner of conversation" or behavior (1 Pet. 1:15) which would include refusing to attend places whose sole purpose is to glorify sex, infidelity, and the world of the occult. It makes no sense why a Christian who believes in Bible separation from the world (Rom. 12:2) would attend the movie theater for in this place horrible and terrible sins of the last days are openly glorified. To state is succinctly, the movie theater is nothing more than a hell hole within society.

As Bible separatists and fundamentalists, we need to continue to take our stand against the movie theater because of what it represents and stands for in our culture. But more so we must refuse to attend the theater because God has called us to holiness. Of course, there is nothing evil in a building or screen but what is openly endorsed and promoted can turn a place into a den of iniquity and vice that is nothing more than the devil's brothel house.

Because of the glory of God.



The Christian should refuse to attend the movie theater because attending a place such as this does not glorify God or properly represent His holy character and righteous ways.

1 Corinthians 10:31 says:

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

The glory of God means that our actions and conduct (whatever we do) will bring honor to God's name or who He is in His existence and being.

In other words, to glorify God means that whatever we do must represent God's character and ways. If what we do does not align with God's character of holiness and righteousness, then God is not glorified or honored in our actions. Colossians 3:23 says, "And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men." In other words, whatever we do should be done to honor and glory God which means to properly represent His holy character and righteousness.

Now apply this principle of God's glory to attending the movie theater. Can I honestly glorify God when I attend a place that the devil uses to openly promote and glory adultery, fornication, homosexuality (open sexual scenes) other vile sins, the occult, and ungodly practices? God cannot and does not get the glory when we attend a place like the movie theater.

Because of our separation unto God.

We have already talked about holiness. Separation is holiness in action.

2 Corinthians 6:14 states: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers (joined together with them in following and promoting their evil agenda and wicked ways): for what



fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"

We must always follow the unchanging and enduring principles of Bible separation which call for a distinction between righteousness versus unrighteousness and light verses darkness. So here is the question. Does attending the movie theater pass the separation test? How can you sit and be entertained with vulgar speech, immodesty dressed women, sexual innuendos, and all the other kinds of filth the movie theater offers by way of entertainment? As Christians, we should avoid all forms of evil (1 Thess. 5:22).

The theater is a dark place filled with unrighteousness and focused on evil. Therefore, we should not attend this type of heathen place and yoke together with others who are being entertained by sin, and therefore approve of the moral depravity and unethical practices that are being promoted in this wicked and vile place. Whether the movie is allegedly "good" or "bad" is a moot point. The place itself and what it *represents* and stands for (heathen darkness and depravity) is ground enough to not attend the cinema. The Bible says we are not to learn the way of the heathen (Jer. 10:2) and we are not to be like them (Matt. 6:8).

2 Corinthians 6:17 goes on to say:

"Wherefore come out from among them (they sinful and evil ways), and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,"

Separation involves not participating in the same sinful depravity as heathen or unsaved people. To separate from unbelievers means we must refuse to participate with their ungodly places, programs, and pursuits in life which are worldly, pagan, and represent sinful and degrading practices. To "touch" something that is unclean means we are in some sense partnering with it and fellowshipping with it, either *directly* or *indirectly* by our presence and endorsement (1 Cor. 10;20).

When we are separated unto God we won't want to fellowship (partner and participate) with any place like the movie theater whose sole purpose is to represent darkness and openly glorify sin. Ephesians 5:10 declares that we are to keep "Proving (testing or examining everything) what is acceptable unto the Lord" (which means we must test everything to make sure it is approved by God or that it reflects God's character and ways). And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove (refute and correct) *them.*"

Philippians 1:10 says that "That ye may approve (test or examine) things that are excellent" (approving only what is superior in nature, what is spiritual and best). In other words, we should not settle for second best and things which are flawed and impure in any way. If you approve of attending the movie theater, you are not approving of something that is "excellent" (superior in ethical and moral purity). This is because of the content of most movies today but also because of the place that promotes some of the most terrible sinful atrocities known to mankind. Attending the movie theater is not proving something that is excellent or superior in character.

God has called us to "have no fellowship with "the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*" (Eph. 5:11). To "fellowship" with something means we in some sense participate with or endorse (condone) that which is spiritually flawed and unethical in nature and therefore place our stamp of approval upon it. To not correct "the unfruitful works of

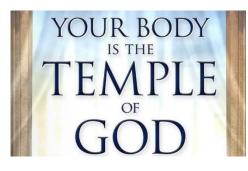
darkness" which is the content of most movies today and attend the movie theater where wicked and vile sins are openly glorified is a clear violation of God's holiness. If we don't "reprove" (refute, find fault with, correct) the wrong it means that we are complicit to it, willing to accept it, and promote it within our personal lives.

So this is another reason why we should refuse to attend the movie theater. To attend the theater which represents nothing more than an immoral house of sin and uncleanness is to give our approval of the cinema and to some degree we *directly* or even *indirectly* fellowship, endorse, sanction, and promote the overall evil nature and purpose of the movie theater. The devil is always pushing his agenda. Don't follow it.

Because of the temple of God.

1 Corinthians 6:19

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"



The Bible teaches that your body is the temple (holy shrine and dwelling place) of God. Think about it. God dwells inside of you in the person of the Holy Spirit. For this reason, we should use our bodies in a way that represents God's holiness and that He is in control of our lives. We are a living

temple of God's indwelling presence. This means we are to separate from that which is evil and not attend places that are totally pagan and which are designed to only promote Satan's purposes. "And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God" (2 Cor. 6:16). In other words, we should not use our bodies (God's holy shrine) for unholy purposes since we are to represent God's holy presence within us and His control over our lives.

Neither should we take our bodies into pagan places like the movie theater because of the devilish, demonic, and degrading sinful depravity that is represented by the theater (1 Cor. 10:20). You might say, "But I'm going to

see a new movie that is morally good and even talks about Jesus." This is not the point and what is deemed ethical and religious by Hollywood standards does not normally meet God's standards of righteousness. Hollywood promotes sketchy things which are skewed with vulgarity, promiscuity, and other sins. We are never to be entertained by swearing, scantily dressed women, or other sins which often appear in even the so-called good movies.

Philippians 4:8 is God's standard – not Hollywood's standard: "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things."

The point is we take God's temple into a place that is the devil's temple and God's indwelling presence in our temple (the human body) creates an incompatible relationship and conflict with places where Satan and sinful degradations are glorified on open screen. In short, we cannot represent God who lives within us when we place ourselves in environments that are committed to marketing sexual sins and other worldly vices. 1 Thessalonians 4:4 again reminds us of using our bodies for holy purposes when it states: "That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour."

Psalm 101:3 is a good reminder not only as it relates to the movie theater but with all our viewing habits within the world of social media. "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; *it* shall not cleave to me." Now think about this. *You never really walk into a movie theater alone.* God is living inside of you and His presence should result in you separating from anything and everything that does not meet His approval.

One Chrisian man said when he was in the movie theater, he became filled with deep conviction and shame after seeing what was being played on the open screen. If our conscience has not become seared toward sinful practices, this is what happens when we watch things which are unwholesome and degrading. God's dwells within us to convict and remind us that we need to stop a specific practice that does not honor and glorify Him.

Because of our testimony for God.

If you are seen walking into the theater to see a certain movie, will it hurt your testimony for Christ? For instance, if you are seen walking into a movie that glorifies the occult, will you



be able to answer the question of why and still hold onto your credibility as a Christian?

1 Thessalonians 5:22 says, "Abstain from all appearance of evil." This is a very short verse and maybe this is why it's overlooked by so many Christians today. The word appearance refers to an external form, figure, or shape. In other words, the believer must abstain from everything that takes on the form of evil. This is not only referring to everything that is intrinsically evil (morally wrong) but also what may outwardly appear to be evil falls under this category of warning. In other words, attending the movie theater, even if it's not a wicked and vile movie like others, takes on the appearance that you are condoning, endorsing, and promoting a place that on open screen glorifies debased sex, cursing, and all kinds of ungodliness.

It also sends the message that you might also enjoy the forms of vile entertainment that normally occur in the movie theater. As Christians we should exhibit discretion regarding our conduct and places that we attend. This is because every Christian has an outward testimony of holiness to maintain before God and others.

1 Timothy 4:12 talks about our general Christian testimony:

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example (a pattern in an ethical sense) of the believers, (to avoid the possibility of justified criticism) in word (speaking – avoiding forbidden speech but engaging in kind speech), in conversation (conduct of living, deportment of life), in charity (our

motive, goal, and spirit toward God's people and service), in spirit (wholesome affections and also intense enthusiasm), in faith (confidence or trust in God as well as faithfulness, steadfastness, dependability), in purity" (holy actions as well as motives in relation to sanctified and separated living).

God wants us to live above reproach (Titus 1:7 – "blameless") and attending a movie theater can potentially soil our reputation as a Christian who wants to honor God with our lives. How can we represent a good testimony for God when we attend a place that is designed to promote hideous and grotesque sins of homosexuality and all kinds of vice? The separated Christian should avoid those places that are questionable, and which might hinder his testimony and effectiveness in serving the Lord in some way.

Living a separated life (Rom. 12:2) means that I strive to separate from those sinful places in society which might be considered "hell holes" and where absolute filth and sinful degradation is practiced. Again, I am commanded to separate from every form (appearance) of evil (1 Thess. 5:22). God's people should want to avoid taking on the appearance that they are identifying or associating (1 Cor. 10:20; Eph. 5:7, 11) with the questionable, extreme, radical, worldly, and unbiblical movements or practices within our society. We are to be salt and light (Matt. 5:13-14) – not darkness or chameleon Christians that seek to blend in with society and culture.

Here are some more questions you can apply to your life, so you do not take on the appearance of evil, that you are endorsing or participating with something that is wrong and evil.

- Can we abstain from the form of evil and even the outward appearance of evil when attending the movie theater?
- What message will we be sending or conveying by attending the movie theater where vile, wicked, and disgusting sins are openly promoted?
- What is the general or over-all emphasis and message being promoted by the movie theater and other places, programs, and activities that you engage in?
- What is the primary thing that the movie theater is trying to push and promote?
- What does the movie theater represent and stand for in society?

- What message does it communicate?
- Is there a breakdown of decency, honesty, and integrity that would be unbecoming for a Christian to identify with and represent by attending the movie theater?
- Can I mix light with darkness or righteousness with unrighteousness when attending the movie theater (2 Cor. 6:14)?
- Am I attempting to unite God's holy temple (my own body) with a pagan temple of unbelief and worldly practices?
- Can you attend the movie theater after applying the principle of holiness to your life (1 Pet. 1:14-17; Lev. 10:10)?
- Will my testimony as a Christian in some way be hindered by identifying or associating with the movie theater?
- Will I cause my bother to stumble in some way?
- Would Jesus attend the movie theater?

These types of questions will guide us in our practical daily separation. God wants us to learn and follow "the good and the right way" (1 Samuel 12:23).

Because of another saint of God.



There is a final reason why a Christians should not attend the movie theater. If for no other reason, we should refuse to attend the movie theater for we may offend others in doing so. Inf act, we may cause them to stumble. There are some fellow Christians

who can be discouraged when they find out that anther fellow believer attends the movie theater. The Bible says that "no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in *his* brother's way" (Rom. 14:13).

This command applies to all Christians and is a principle that every Christian must take to heart. Where we go and what we do can have an adverse spiritual effect on others. Our decisions and actions can cause spiritual conflict to occur in the hearts of other Christians and even corruption to set into their lives. Our actions may cause another Christian to revert to his old ways of living. What if a brother was bound to the movie theater with its lust and lewdness and then he sees you as a Christian attending the theater? This would be reason enough to cause him to revert back to his old ways.

1 Corinthians 8:13

"Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend."

This Biblical principle is reason enough for believers to not openly endorse or attend the movie theater, places that promote dancing, and other places of questionable vice and entertainment. Your looseness of living can lead many others to compromise! To openly attend places and participate in certain activities that generate questions and controversy may cause confusion to some and lead others astray.

For a Christian, the question is not so much "is watching this movie a sin?" but "is this something that Jesus would want me to do?" The danger lies in (1) how what we are watching affects our heart and (2) how it affects others. For ourselves, if a scene we view brings a feeling of lust, anger, or hatred, then we have sinned (Matthew 5:22, 28), and we must do whatever we can to avoid this (1 Thess. 5:22). Of course, this means we should not attend the movie theater where these types of pictures to a lesser and greater degree are played. It also means I must refuse to watch any scenes like this in the privacy and secrecy of my home.

Again, attending a movie theater can be a stumbling block to someone who is struggling with a habit or behavior that is coming between him and God (1 Corinthians 10:25-33; Romans 14:13). As members of the body of Christ, we are to be a light to the world (Matthew 5:14) and a holy example of what God has done in our lives (1 Peter 2:11-12). If we are seen by others going into the movie theater, it could very easily send the wrong message to them - that we enjoy and/or condone illicit sex and violence. That is not conducive to being a light in a dark world.

There is another reason why you should consider not attending the movie theater.

Because of following God.



Being disciple or follower of Christ involves suffering to God's way and purpose for your life despite what others might thing and want you to do.

Jesus taught in Luke 14:26-28: "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife,

and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?"

Jesus did not teach that we are to hate others in an unethical or bad sense. In Bible times the word "hate" was sometimes used in a comparative way. Jesus was saying that you are to love me more than anyone else or anything else in life. Taking up a cross means we are ready and willing to surrender and even sacrifice and suffer for Christ as His disciple or follower. This means you should not be pressured to attend the movie theater just because others are doing it – not even your friends. We are to follow truth – not people. We must follow God's will – not man's will.

Proverbs 29:25 warns:

"The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe."

In other words, we should not allow the fear of what others think about us (even our friends) to become a trap and keep us from doing God's will. We must be determined to do what is right despite what others might think and do. After all, we are Christ's followers – not the follower of the whimsical ideas and conclusions of others.1 Peter 4:4 reminds us that some will "think it strange that ye run not with *them* to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of *you*." That's okay. You continue to do what is right and follow Christ.

Christians will sometimes take some heat or pressure for during the right thing. Don't cave to the culture. Sadly, Jesus said that some of His followers loved the praises of others more than His praise and glory. John 12:43: "For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God." Don't follow the crowd; follow Christ and do what is right.

You must take up your cross, count the cost of being a follower of Christ, and not conform to the conclusions of others. In doing so, you conform to the world's standards (Rom. 12:2). Instead, you must follow Christ's calling for your life which is holiness, consecration, and dedication to His cause. So don't feel like you are a Christian misfit or outcast just because you refuse to attend the movie theater. The important thing is that you keep following God's will and purpose for your life based upon the Biblical commands and principles regarding holiness, separation, God's temple, the glory of God, your testimony, causing a stumbling block before others, and being a disciple or follower of Christ.

Ultimately, we should be loyal to God and what He expects from our lives. We cannot "go along to get along" for this is caving to the pressure of others and compromising with the culture. So take your stand and do not blush or be embarrassed when taking it. Remember that if you don't stand for something you will fall for everything.

A preacher shared this interesting story that aligns with a little leaven spreading and causing greater corruption. "Some years ago, when I was a pastor, I walked into my church office after a Sunday morning service to find a sandwich bag on my desk containing three chocolate brownies. Some thoughtful and anonymous saint who knew my love for chocolate had placed them there, along with a piece of paper that had a short story written on it. I immediately sat down and began eating the first brownie as I read the following story.

Here is the story. Two teenagers asked their father if they could go to the theater to watch a movie that all their friends had seen. After reading some reviews about the movie on the internet, he denied their request.

"Aw dad, why not?" they complained. "It's rated PG-13, and we're both older than thirteen!"

Dad replied: "Because that movie contains nudity and portrays immorality, which is something that God hates, as being normal and acceptable behavior."

"But dad, those are just very small parts of the movie! That's what our friends who've seen it have told us. The movie is two hours long and those scenes are just a few minutes of the total film! It's based on a true story, and good triumphs over evil, and there are other redeeming themes like courage and self-sacrifice. Even the Christian movie review websites say that!"

"My answer is 'no,' and that is my final answer. You are welcome to stay home tonight, invite some of your friends over, and watch one of the good videos we have in our home collection. But you will not go and watch that film. End of discussion."

The two teenagers walked dejectedly into the family room and slumped down on the couch. As they sulked, they were surprised to hear the sounds of their father preparing something in the kitchen. They soon recognized the wonderful aroma of brownies baking in the oven, and one of the teenagers said to the other, "Dad must be feeling guilty, and now he's going to try to make it up to us with some fresh brownies. Maybe we can soften him with lots of praise when he brings them out to us and persuade him to let us go to that movie after all."

[The Pastor remarks] "About that time, I began eating the second brownie from the sandwich bag and wondered if there was some connection to the brownies I was eating and the brownies in the story. I kept eating and reading..."

The teens were not disappointed. Soon their father appeared with a plate of warm brownies which he offered to his kids. They each took one. Then their father said, "Before you eat, I want to tell you something: I love you both so much." The teenagers smiled at each other with knowing glances. Dad was softening. "That is why I've made these brownies with the very best

ingredients. I've made them from scratch. Most of the ingredients are even organic. The best organic flour. The best free-range eggs. The best organic sugar. Premium vanilla and chocolate."

The brownies looked mouth-watering, and the teens began to become a little impatient with their dad's long speech.

"But I want to be perfectly honest with you. There is one ingredient I added that is not usually found in brownies. I got that ingredient from our own back yard. But you needn't worry, because I only added the tiniest bit of that ingredient to your brownies. The amount of the portion is practically insignificant. So go ahead, take a bite and let me know what you think."

"Dad, would you stop beating around the bush and tell us what that mystery ingredient is before we eat?"

"Why? The portion I added was so small. Just a teaspoonful. You won't even taste it."

"Come on, dad, just tell us what that ingredient is."

"Don't worry! It is organic, just like the other ingredients."

"Dad!"

"Well, OK, if you insist. That secret ingredient is organic...it's a few dog droppings."

[The pastor remarked] "I immediately stopped chewing that second brownie and I spit it out into the waste basket by my desk thinking the story was related to my brownies. I continued reading, now fearful of the paragraphs that still remained."

The story continues: Both teens instantly dropped their brownies back on the plate and began inspecting their fingers with horror.

"DAD! Why did you do that? You've tortured us by making us smell those brownies cooking for the last half hour, and now you tell us that you added dog droppings! We can't eat these brownies!"

"Why not? The amount of dog droppings is very small compared to the rest of the ingredients. It won't hurt you. It's been cooked right along with the other ingredients. You won't even taste it. It has the same consistency as the brownies. Go ahead and eat!"

"No, Dad...NEVER!"

"And that is the same reason I won't allow you to go watch that movie. You won't tolerate a little dog dropping in your brownies, so why should you tolerate a little immorality in your movies? We pray that God will not lead us unto temptation, so how can we in good conscience entertain ourselves with something that will imprint a sinful image in our minds that will lead us into temptation long after we first see it?"

[The pastor concludes] "I discarded what remained of the second brownie as well as the entire untouched third brownie. What had been irresistible a minute ago had become detestable. And only because of the very slim chance that what I was eating was slightly polluted. (Surely it wasn't...but I couldn't convince myself).

This is a good and practical lesson about purity! Why do we tolerate any sin? On the day of the Passover, the Israelites were commanded to remove every bit of leaven from their homes. Sin is like leaven - a little bit leavens the whole lump (1 Cor. 5:6). We cannot tolerate the sin of leaven to enter our hearts and lives for it will expand and overcome our lives.

2 Corinthians 7:1

"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

1 Timothy 5:22 adds, "neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure." It's time to follow Christ. Make your refusal to attend the movie

theater as part of your discipleship, surrender to the Lord, your Christian testimony, and the desire to reflect holiness and glorify God as your Master. Don't treat others badly if they decide to attend the theater and don't think you are more spiritual than others. Beware of developing "a holier than thou" attitude. The Bible says we should not compare ourselves with one another for "they measuring themselves by themselves (*their own standards*), and comparing themselves among themselves (*to determine who is more spiritual*), are not wise" (2 Cor. 10:12). Just determine to do right and leave the rest with God.

Take up your cross and sacrifice your life totally for Jesus Christ. Follow Him and His ways for your life. Don't allow anyone else to interfere with your commitment to Christ and His holy path for your life.

> "I have decided to follow Jesus; I have decided to follow Jesus; I have decided to follow Jesus; No turning back, no turning back. Though none go with me, I still will follow; Though none go with me, I still will follow; Though none go with me, I still will follow; No turning back, no turning back."

