

# The Exchanger

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## The Master's Touch

THE NEWSLETTER  
OF  
FELLOWSHIP  
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WHITE ROCK

The Mission of  
FBCWR:  
*Connecting People to  
God's Life-Changing  
Power*

*We've Got  
Connections!*

And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me."

Luke 9:23

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I've been thinking, Jesus didn't take many cues from man's best wisdom on how to win friends and influence people. Our rules for influencing people might go something like this:

**\*Human rule of influence #1— Whatever you do, work hard at not grossing people out.** Jesus not only broke this rule, He shattered it. Consider John 6:54-56 -

*"He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him."*

-How did the crowds respond to His offer? Forget the crowds, He lost even loyal followers after that sermon. John 6:66, "As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore". Oops! Well at least Jesus immediately engaged in that time honored human tradition of "damage control", right? Nope—He actually turns to the 12 apostles and starts weeding them out too! Check it out in John 6.

**\*Human rule of influence #2— Don't scare potential prospects off with high requirements.** When Jesus was asked by the rich young ruler what he must do for eternal life. Jesus said obey all the commandments. The ruler replied in Matthew 10:20-22,

*"Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth up." Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have*

*treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property.*

So surely Jesus ran after him and told him there was a lesser level of commitment that might fit his needs better, right? Well, actually the sum total of the pursuit of this man was zero. Matthew 10:23 - "And Jesus, looking around, said to His disciples, 'How hard it will be for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!'"

**\*Human rule of influence #3— Don't corner people with hard choices—you may lose them altogether.** Matthew 8:21-22— *Another of the disciples said to Him, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me, and allow the dead to bury their own dead."* If a major religious figure said something like this today, they'd be skewered on "Nightline" tonight and probably at the kitchen tables of many church-going Christians.

But what does this all mean to us? If we are to build His church with Him, we must do it His way. He wasn't afraid to let people turn away from Him. He evidently preferred a smaller, more committed following to a large, half-hearted following.

One thing is certain, the ones who stuck around and met His challenges made quite a big splash in the world—for such a small group.

-Joe Fornear