



LET'S GO DEEPER

Increase of the Call: February 25th 2024 – Pastor Peter

Key Verse

Matthew 4:18-22

One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers - Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew - throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. Jesus called out to them, 'Come, follow Me, and I will show you how to fish for people!' And they left their nets at once and followed Him. A little farther up the shore He saw two other brothers, James and John, sitting in a boat with their father, Zebedee, repairing their nets. And He called them to come, too. They immediately followed Him, leaving the boat and their father behind."

1. God Calls

Their lives will never be the same again once they respond to the call to follow.

The idea of calling is often applied to being 'called' into ministry. **But all believers are called, and greatness in God's Kingdom is determined by the depth of love we have for Jesus and our obedience to His call.**

1 Corinthians 1:9 "God will do this, for He is faithful to do what He says, and He has called you into partnership with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."

Every person who's a follower of Jesus has been called by God to be His disciple.

i. Purpose

Matt. 4:19 "Follow Me, and I will show you..."

God creates each one of us to fulfill our destiny and the purpose He has for us.

What are the main points of this verse?

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What would it mean to immediately leave everything and follow Jesus?

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Questions:

1. What was the attitude of the men called on in Matthew 4:18-22?

2. What should our response be to God's call?

3. Who do God calls disciples?



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ii. Action

And the call to follow means we take action.

Matthew 4:19 “Follow Me, and I will show you how to fish for people.”

The mark of true discipleship is pressing in with action and energy.

The truth is, many times God is waiting for us to act and do something in partnership with Him.

2 Kings 4:3-6 “And Elisha said, ‘Borrow as many empty jars as you can from your friends and neighbors. Then go into your house with your sons and shut the door behind you. Pour olive oil from your flask into the jars, setting each one aside when it is filled.’ So she did as she was told. Her sons kept bringing jars to her, and she filled one after another. Soon every container was full to the brim! ‘Bring me another jar,’ she said to one of her sons. ‘There aren’t any more!’ he told her. And then the olive oil stopped flowing.”

The oil she has is the oil she needs and God blesses it.

And God is going to bless what He gives you.

2. We Follow

Jesus simply says,

Matt. 4:19 “Follow Me...”

And their response is immediate. They don’t think about it.

And because Jesus doesn’t lay out the terms before His followers say ‘yes’, He spends the next three years taking them to discipleship school so they can understand what following the call really means.

Love God More

Luke 14:26 “If you want to be My disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else - your father and mother, wife?”

4. What is God waiting from us?

Why do you think the widow felt like she had nothing to give?

1. How much is God expecting us to love him?

2. What is the constant posture we must have as a disciple of Jesus?

3. What does that mean to you?

4. How can we produce ‘fruit’ as expected?



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and children, brothers and sisters - yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be My disciple.”

By comparison, we have to love God way more than we love anyone or anything.

Take Up the Cross

Matt. 16:24 “Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If any of you wants to be My follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow Me.’”

To be a disciple of Jesus means being in a constant posture of dying to self and being alive to God.

Produce Fruit

John 15:8 “When you produce much fruit, you are My true disciples. This brings great glory to My Father.”

Fruit here means ‘results.’ And, within the context of the passage, the fruit we produce is only possible if we stay connected to our Source who is Jesus.

3. We Follow Through

Matt. 28:19 “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

We call it the Great Commission because Jesus is commissioning His followers to go and make followers who will then make followers.

1 Cor. 11:1 “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”

HOW CAN I APPLY THIS TO MY LIFE THIS WEEK?

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Questions:

1. How do we follow through?

2. What is the Great Commission in your own words?

Key Points:

1. **God is calling.** The word ministry means to serve others. In 2 Corinthians 5:18, Paul reminds us that we ALL are called as followers of Jesus to reconcile men with God. We just need to recognize he is calling on us.

2. **God calls, we answer, we follow.** You don’t need anything more than what you already have to answer the call. God meets you where you are and wants you to serve with what your currently have.



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