

SERMON NOTES - He leads, we follow - October 6 - Pastor Peter

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. Go Call Disciples

Our lives will never ever be the same again once we respond to the call to follow Jesus. In God's kingdom, greatness is determined by the depth of love we have for Jesus and our obedience to what He asks us to do. God calls people who have willing hearts that are ready to say 'yes, I'll follow You.'

Ephesians. 4:1 "Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God."

2 Timothy 1:9 "For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was His plan from before the beginning of time - to show us His grace through Christ Jesus."

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

What does the call to discipleship mean?

i. It Means We Have Purpose

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

God has a plan that He wants to show us.

QUESTIONS:

1. What are the qualifications of a disciple of Jesus?

2. What does following Jesus mean to you?

3. What does the call to discipleship mean?

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ii. It Means We Take Action

Matthew 4:19 "Follow Me, and I will show you how to fish for people." This means effort and action.

In 2 Kings 4 a widow comes to a prophet named Elisha and she tells him her problems, Elisha says, 'What do you have in your house?' Without hesitation she says, 'Nothing, I've got nothing.' She doesn't recognize what she has.

Matthew 13:44 "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field."

Jesus see the treasure in you. Jesus sees the kingdom potential in you. The widow says, 'I'm afraid and I've got nothing.' Finally she says she has a jar of oil.

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. What she has is exactly what she needs, and God blesses it. What you have is exactly what you need, and God will bless it.

2. Disciples Obey

Matthew 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 obeying and being a disciple really means.

i. Love God MoreJesus teaches them to love God more than anyone or anything.

QUESTIONS:

1. What was Peter and
Andrew's response
when Jesus told them
'Follow me'?

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Luke 14:26 "If you want to be My disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else - your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters - yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be My disciple."

ii. Take Up the Cross

Matthew 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."

And when Jesus is in the picture, every cross is followed by a resurrection.

3. Disciples Follow Through

Matthew 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 this the Great Commission because Jesus is commissioning His disciples to go and make disciples who will then make disciples.1 Cor. 11:1 "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."

All he's really saying is that all of us have tangible examples that we follow and all of us are examples to somebody else.

Putting it all together (Application)

1. He gave us purpose; he calls on us. Being disciples of Jesus means we need to follow him. He leads, we follow. The first disciples of Jesus were not what you would expect. He chose his followers to be the opposite of what the religious culture would have expected. He chose fishermen over teachers. He chose humble man over proud men. He chose heart over entitlement. All you need to follow Jesus is actually to follow him. Make the decision to do so. You are qualified. He gave you

- 3. What are the things you need to do to follow Jesus?
- 4. What does Jesus mean by you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow Me?

5. How are you following the great commission?

6. What do you need to start doing to follow through?

purpose, and there is nothing you can do to make yourself more qualified or worthy. Just following him. He is calling on you.	
2. Can you truly be a disciple without obeying your teacher? What is the purpose of following if you are not obeying your teacher? Its like paying for your university education but not going to class. As disciples we need to obey what Jesus teaches us, Make his way, our way. Be more like him, and less like us.	
3. We walk the walk. If we profess it, we must live it. Really be a disciple. Being more like Jesus will reflect in our lives. The way we behave, interact with the people in all the areas of our lives, how we take upon life. As you can imagine this is a task that is not accomplished at a moment in time but a process through life. By walking with Jesus and getting to know him, we start seeing the differences between how Jesus say we should live our lives and how we are actually doing it. And there is where, if we are true disciples, we start making adjustments to close those gaps between Jesus and us. That is taking our cross and following him. We walk the walk, not only talk the talk. We live true faith based lives.	
ACTION STEPS:	