

Come, Follow Me

Matthew 4:18-22

Main Truth: We are called by Jesus to make His disciples

Matthew 4:17 Jesus begins His preaching ministry “Repent, for the kingdom of God has come near.” His purpose is to seek and save the lost. His ultimate redemption being his sacrifice on the cross was for those alive at his time and for those who come after.

His word, the Bible, has remained intact and true since the time it was first written. Jesus continues to seek and save the lost through His Word. His Spirit speaks to and through every one of his people.

Jesus created, modeled and manages the process of making disciples who make disciples. We have each received the call to follow and the call to disciple. The word “Christian” appears in the Bible three times and the word “disciple” is used 281 times.

Matthew 4:18 As Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee his purpose was to seek disciples who would follow him. Simon Peter and Andrew were the first to be called to become his disciples.

Matthew 4:19-20 “Come follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” Jesus was calling ordinary people just like you and me, who were busy doing ordinary things, to do something beyond their scope for His Kingdom.

In spite of their business and personal priorities which demanded their time, Peter and Andrew obeyed Jesus’ call and “At once they left their nets and followed him.” An immediate response of obedience.

Matthew 4:21-22 Jesus found James and John busy at their jobs as fishermen working for their father Zebedee. Jesus had something far more important for them to be doing than fixing nets and fishing and calls them to follow him. Like Peter and Andrew, James and John immediately obeyed Jesus and followed him.

These four men were still going to be fishermen, but of a different kind.

Matthew 4:19 “and He said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make your fishers of men’”

Step 1: Follow me (decision and belief)

Step 2: I will make you (transformation)

Step 3: Fishers of people (mission)

We must consider our daily response to God’s calling.

We must consider what it takes to truly follow.

Believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior and he will transform us to live out his mission.

You may be asking yourself “is Jesus actually calling me to do this?”

Matthew 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Jesus called each one of us onto the mission field to be disciple makers. We are to become kingdom-focused so that the lost can be found, transformed and matured into disciple-makers themselves.

OCC Mission Statement: We will make disciples of Jesus Christ through intentional relationships.

Jesus is actually calling each of us to be disciple-makers.

1. Jesus is the ONE WHO CALLS. He is picking you with all your scars, struggles, and sin.

John 15:16 “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last— so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.”

2. Jesus calls us to FOLLOW. The definition for disciple is - One that follows.

You may need to lay something down to follow Him without knowing where He is leading.

3. Jesus calls the WILLING. **Acts 4:13** It is not about our talent, skills or abilities. It is about Jesus and how He equips and empowers those who are willing to follow him in obedience.

4. Jesus calls us to follow in FAITHFULNESS. Through total faith in Him we can rely on Him to live out what He has called us to do: **We are to make disciples!**

“Follow me....and I will make you fish for people”

The main task (order) we are given directly from Jesus is to follow Him and to help others follow Him as well.

He is calling us to be disciples who develop disciples.

Mature Disciple/Mature Christian - A mature disciple of Christ has the ability, and uses that ability, to make other disciples who can make other disciples..... of Jesus Christ.

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Application:

1. Lay down your 'nets' to follow (cast off whatever is not of His call to pick up the right 'nets')
2. Be a disciple (can not grow others unless we grow ourselves)
3. Disciple someone else (get involved in our discipleship ministry, identify someone who you can help grow)

Small Group Discussion Questions

Come, Follow Me Matthew 4:18-22

1. What comes to mind when you hear each of the following words:
"movie star" "athlete" "hero" "Christian" "Disciple"

Matthew 4:18-22

2. What does it mean to be a "fisher of men" in today's context?
3. How does the immediate obedience of the disciples challenge our own response to God's call? What would "radical abandonment" look like in your own life today?
4. Why do you think Jesus chose fishermen, who were not religious leaders, as his first disciples?
5. What qualifications do you think a disciple maker needs to have to be able to disciple someone?
6. How can you apply the example of these disciples to your current walk with Jesus?
7. Being disciplined or discipling someone requires committed weekly time. What would you say to someone who said they would like to be disciplined but do not have time for it?

Matthew 28:18-20

8. Are you a follower of Jesus? What does that mean for you?
9. How important would you say it is for you to be personally disciplined or for you to disciple someone in light of what Jesus commands regarding making disciples.

Matthew 4:19

10. When Jesus says follow me does that mean just partially follow Him? What does it mean to follow Jesus?
11. Are you willing to leave something behind in order to follow Jesus?
12. I don't have time. I am already too busy with church stuff. What are some things that you may need to give up doing in your life to make the time to follow Jesus -

Personal and church related activities?

13. The question is: are you willing to follow Him fully and faithfully?

14. How can we as a small group, as a team, work together to be “fishers of people”?

Personal Study Guide

Jesus is the Light

To become a disciple of Jesus means to accept Him as your Lord and Savior, to commit yourself to following His teaching and live according to His example. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are commanded to disciple others to do the same. Make disciples who make disciples.

As you study the following verses ask the Holy Spirit to speak and guide you to either being discipled or being a Disciple Maker.

Matthew 4:19 From Follower to Disciple

Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus Our Lord Commands Us to Be Disciple Makers

Acts 1:8 The Holy Spirit Strengths your Faith and Empowers You for Discipling Others

James 1:22 Putting Your Faith into Practice

Luke 14:33 Prioritizing Jesus in Your Daily Life

Hebrews 5:12-14 Embracing Spiritual Maturity

Mark 16:15

Colossians 3:23-24 Integrate Discipleship into Your Everyday Life

Romans 10:14-15

2 Timothy 2:2 Multiply Your Faith by Spreading the Word

Luke 9:23-24

John 13:34-35 Love is the Ultimate Mark of Discipleship

DISCIPLESHIP INFORMATION:

If you would like to learn more about being discipled or becoming a Disciple Maker
Please contact:

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