

Theme: Jesus is calling disciples - those who sacrifice everything so they can follow and be apprenticed by Him to enable them to reach out to others and help them to follow Jesus.

I. Interview on Truthful Knowing, Tacit Knowing

- A. Peter and Wendy Moes - make violins, violas, & cellos
- B. Much more of an art than science; must be apprenticed according to Polanyi
- C. Today, Jesus calls “apprentices” - disciples

II. The King Summons Followers

- A. The general call becomes specific and individual
After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!” ¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” Mark 1:14–17
 1. In verses 14-15 Jesus is preaching in public and calling people to respond to the Kingdom.
 2. In verses 16-17, Jesus is giving a specific call to Peter and Andrew.
 3. The calls are similar, for repentance and faith are how one follows Jesus and becomes His disciple.
 4. But here we see that a general call needs to be accompanied by specific outreach to individuals.
 5. This is also true for believers today, and perhaps the need for individual conversation and outreach is even greater in our society where many have heard the general call to follow Jesus.

B. The call is to follow Jesus as a disciple

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰ Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him. Mark 1:17–20

1. Both sets of brothers had the same call & response
2. The same three items - call, leave, follow
3. Jesus is calling them to be His disciples, to be willing to leave everything else behind to follow and learn from Him.
4. The word disciple is not used here, but it is the idea behind the call to “follow”, and they will be referred to as Jesus’ disciples throughout the Gospel.
5. Discipleship is a key theme in Mark’s Gospel; some form of the word “disciple” occurs 59x in the Gospel!

III. The Call To Discipleship

A. Jesus is the One Who calls disciples

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”... ²⁰ Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him. Mark 1:17, 20

1. Jesus is the One Who initiated the call
2. This is striking and very unusual, for normally disciples chose their master, but it is clear that Jesus chose them.
You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last... John 15:16

- a. This is the pattern in every Gospel - Jesus chooses.
- b. This is hard in our age where we want to make our choice king, but Jesus is the Sovereign King, and He is the One Who initiates.
- c. This should cause us to bow in worship - our King chose us to be His people!

3. This underlines the Sovereign authority of Jesus the King - and we must keep His Sovereign authority clear and central in our proclamation of the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

B. The heart of discipleship is following Jesus

“Come, **follow me**,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and **followed him**... ²⁰ Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and **followed him**. Mark 1:17–18, 20

1. Follow - literally “come after”
2. The heart of discipleship is not a program or simply knowledge, but rather following close behind Jesus.
3. This was also unique. Rabbi’s taught disciples to follow the Torah or a school of thought, but Jesus issues the call “Follow ME”.
4. Once again, this underlines the unique Sovereign authority of Jesus the King.
5. No human - not even the apostles - is to create followers of themselves. Our task is to create followers of Jesus.

Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. 1 Corinthians 11:1

- a. We can learn much from those who have walked with Christ longer than we have.

- b. We can help others by our own example and experience.
- c. But the ultimate goal is always walking close behind Jesus and helping others to do the same!

6. Following Jesus will cause us to become more like Him in desires and character and allow Him to teach us (more on that below).

C. Discipleship requires sacrifice

At once **they left their nets** and followed him...

²⁰ Without delay he called them, and **they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men** and followed him. Mark 1:18, 20

1. Both sets of brothers had to leave their fishing gear and even their families behind.
2. This was a radical commitment, especially in their day when sons were expected to stay with the family business.
3. But the call to follow the Sovereign King as His disciple takes priority over every other tradition, obligation, and desire.
4. This does not mean irresponsibility or shirking rightful responsibilities, but it does mean that our loyalty to Jesus takes priority over every other relationship, calling, and desire.
5. The sacrifice - no matter how great - pales next to the reward of following Jesus!

Peter said to him, “We have left everything to follow you!” ²⁹ “I tell you the truth,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel ³⁰ will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields — and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life. Mark 10:28–30

- a. The call to the disciples called for them to leave everything
- b. The sacrifice pales next to the reward in this life!
- c. However, there will be persecutions along with blessing - this is another sacrifice all disciples of Jesus must be willing to make.
- d. But whatever sacrifice we make now, eternal life awaits!

D. Discipleship is a process of learning and apprenticeship
 “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and **I will make you fishers of men.**” Mark 1:17 NIV

And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and **I will make you become** fishers of men.” Mark 1:17

1. I will make you - I will make you to become...
2. This envisions an ongoing process, not an instantaneous event.
3. Disciple (μαθητής) means “one who learns”
4. We grow as disciples as we follow Jesus and are apprenticed by Him.
5. We should never be discouraged by what we do not know - we are disciples being apprenticed by our King! The only thing to be ashamed of is not following close enough to be apprenticed by Him!
6. We will never “arrive” in this life. The whole Christian life is one of being discipled by Jesus.

E. Discipleship equips us to reach out to others
 “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and **I will make you fishers of men.**” Mark 1:17 NIV

1. Discipleship involves shaping our character, but here the focus is on becoming fishers of men.
2. Certainly refers to their vocation as fishermen
3. But in the OT ‘fishing’ referred to the coming judgment (Jeremiah 16:14-16; Ezekiel 32:3; Amos 4:2; Habakkuk 1:14-17)
4. Disciples are those who have received the grace of God through the Gospel and they extend the Gospel to others so that they might receive grace rather than judgment.
5. This is not the call for Peter and Andrew alone, nor a few select disciples, but rather for all followers of Jesus.
6. All disciples of Jesus are called to reach out to others with the Gospel and to help others learn to walk closely with Jesus. (See After Hours for more)

IV. Applying the Word

- A. Do I understand discipleship requires sacrifice?
1. These four had to sacrifice a lot - leave business and family to follow Jesus as He wandered around.
 2. But this was not unique to them - being a disciple of Jesus ALWAYS requires sacrifice!
 3. This is actually true of ANYTHING worthwhile - learning an instrument; learning a trade; getting in better physical shape; etc.
 4. This is unpopular in our age for we want a quick fix, massive returns with no sacrifice or work - but this is a fool’s errand!

5. Do I see that to be a follower of Jesus will require sacrifice and change in my life?

6. Remember - it is worth it!! Blessings now and eternal life!

B. Am I following Jesus and becoming a disciple?

1. This begins at a specific time but continues throughout life

2. Several key areas of sacrifice for disciples today

a. The sacrifice of schedule

1. Discipleship requires consistent time with Jesus and His other followers
2. Satan does not have to trap us in sin - he can simply fill our calendars so that there is no time to be with Jesus and His people.
3. To grow as a disciple will require saying NO to many other activities and possibilities - including for your children - "You can have it all" is a LIE!
4. Does my schedule have room to follow Jesus?

b. The sacrifice of silence

1. We can not spend time with Jesus if we are constantly distracted by noise, phones, TV, etc.
2. We are addicted to a never-ending barrage of information and distraction - but to hear Jesus we must learn to sit and listen
3. How often do I give quiet time and space to hear from Jesus?

c. The sacrifice of sanctification

1. When we follow Jesus, our sin becomes apparent!
2. Growing as a disciple will require fighting against my sinful desires and habits - if I don't I will distance myself from Jesus.

3. Is there some sin that is preventing me from following Jesus closely?

d. The sacrifice of shunning (by the culture)

1. Devotion to Christ will lead to cultural ridicule or even banishment
2. Andrew Thorburn, a former banker, was appointed chief executive of Essendon Football Club in Australia - forced to resign one day later
3. His "sin" - he was head of the board for an evangelical congregation that will not affirm the LGBTQ+ movement
4. Following Jesus may cost us popularity, reputation, or even our jobs - but He is worth it!
5. Am I willing to be shunned by family, friends, or society at large to stay close to Jesus?

3. Let Jesus speak to you as we come to the Table!

C. The Table of the Master

1. Is Jesus speaking about one of these areas to me?
2. Is there some other area?
3. Confess & receive grace and strength at the Table!

The King Summons Followers

Mark 1:16-20
October 23, 2022
Communion
2 Peter 3:18

Teaching keywords: Discipleship; evangelism and missions

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. 2 Peter 3:18

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰ Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him. Mark 1:16–20