

A CALL TO FOLLOW JESUS

TEXT: (Matthew 4:18-22, NIV)

¹⁸ As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” ²⁰ At once they left their nets and followed him.

²¹ Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, ²² and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

KEY VERSE: “And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:27, NIV).

I. TRUE DISCIPLESHIP

1. “For many are called, but few *are* chosen” (Matthew 22:14, KJV).
2. “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 7:21, NIV).
3. “Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say” (Luke 6:46, NIV).

A. The Meaning of Discipleship

1. “A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher” (Luke 6:40, NIV).
2. “Peter said to him, ‘We have left everything to follow you’” (Mark 10:28, NIV)!

B. The Development of a Disciple

1. “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight” (Proverbs 3:5-6, NIV).
2. “But my people would not listen to me; Israel would not submit to me. So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts to follow their own devices” (Psalm 81:11-12, NIV).
3. “Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7, NIV).

II. GETTING ON HIS TEAM

A. The Demands for Being Disciples

1. “Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: ‘If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple’” (Luke 14:26-27, NIV).
2. “In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:33, NIV).
3. “Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me’” (Matthew 16:24, NIV).

B. The Reward of Being a Disciple

1. “‘I tell you the truth,’ Jesus said to them, ‘no one who has left home or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will fail to receive many times as much in this age and, in the age to come, eternal life’” (Luke 18:29-30, NIV).

III. THE OUTCOME OF TRUE DISCIPLESHIP

A. Relationship with Christ

1. “If you love me, you will obey what I command” (John 14:15).
2. “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5, NIV).

B. Relationship with His Natural Family

1. “Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn ‘a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’

Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it” (Matthew 10:34-39, NIV).

C. Relationship with His Spiritual Family

1. “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:34-35).

CONCLUSION

1. “Jesus replied, ‘No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God’” (Luke 9:62, NIV).
2. “A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master” (Matthew 10:24, NIV).
3. “I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead” (Philippians 3:10-11, NIV).

QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to truly follow Jesus—to be a disciple?
2. What is the difference between hearing the call to follow and becoming a disciple?
 - a. Matthew 7:21 and Luke 6:46
3. Discuss some things you may have to lay down to truly become Jesus’ disciple.
4. What does it mean to become like Jesus?
5. Parents, discuss how you can disciple your children?
6. What assignments has the Lord been talking to you about carrying out?