

The Ultimate Invitation: COME FOLLOW ME

Matthew 4:18-22 - September 8, 2019 - Pastor Jim Ammerman

An Introduction to Jesus - four stages of commitment

I. Jesus' disciples discover WHO He is. (John 1:29, 39; 2:11)

²⁹The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.

- ◆ He is the savior - the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.
- ◆ They move from following John the Baptist to Jesus

II. WHAT is Jesus's Mission? (Mt. 4:19, 23)

¹⁹And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." ²³And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. (24 - the demon-possessed).

- ◆ WHAT He MAKES are fishers of men.
- ◆ WHAT is His ministry PhD? Preaching, Healing, & Deliverance.

III. Jesus' WHY, WOAAH and WHEN. (Luke 5:8-11)

⁸But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."⁹For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, ¹⁰and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men."¹¹ And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

- ◆ WOAAH! - The reason Jesus came was to redeem sinners.
- ◆ WHY? - Not just for the sinful world, but for our sin too.
- ◆ "Repent" is used over 100 times in the Bible, meaning reconsider, turn from sin and turn to God.
- ◆ Note - Stage 3 of discipleship AFTER relationship is established (Rom. 2:4; John 1:14). God's Kindness and grace lead to repentance.
- ◆ WHEN - Permanently "left everything to follow him."

IV. The disciples' WOW - Our mission as Christ's disciples!

Matt 10:1-4 And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.² The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;⁴ ⁴ Simon the Zealot,⁵ and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

- ◆ Our purpose - to present the hope of the world as Christ's ambassadors. The Great Commandment (Mt. 22:36-40) and the Great Commission (Mt. 28:16-20)
- ◆ Through Compassion - Matt. 9:36-38

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