

Have you answered the call?

Lesson for Sunday, January 25, 2025

INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ What would you say are the most famous sayings of Jesus?
- ⇒ Today we are beginning a new series on what it means to be a disciple.
- ⇒ When we study the earthly ministry of Jesus, we get a clear definition of what it means to be a disciple and the qualities that characterize a true disciple of Jesus Christ.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. The First Call: _____ (John 1:35-39)
 - a. What did Jesus mean?
 - i. In the Greek, the word translated “come” literally means “_____.”
 - ii. This is the first step that all seekers must take. They must be willing to just show up and learn more.
 - b. Andrew and John were obviously interested in spiritual things. They were curious about this man John the Baptist had identified as the Lamb.
 - c. Jesus responded with the invitation to come and see – to spend time with Him.
 - d. This is similar to the invitation we give to our lost and unchurched friends, “Come and see – just show up and see what Christianity is about.”
 - e. This call goes out to the _____. The one who is lost.
 - f. Question: Jesus asks every sinner to “come and see.” Have you answered that call?
2. The Second Call: _____ (John 1:43)
 - a. This call is one of His most repeated calls in the Gospels.
 - b. For every Christian, this is our primary responsibility. Jesus repeated it frequently.
 - i. In the case of Matthew – Matthew 9:9.
 - ii. Later with His disciples – Matthew 4:19.
 - iii. In His teaching – Matthew 10:38.
 - iv. The mark of a true believer is following Jesus (John 10: 27).
 - c. The word translated “follow” literally means to come behind, to follow in my steps.
 - d. “Come and see” assumes curiosity. “Follow Me” assumes _____.
 - e. This call goes out the _____. Someone who is saved but needs to grow spiritually.
 - f. Question: Jesus calls to every believer, “Follow Me.” Have you answered His call?
3. The Third Call: Follow Me and I will make you _____ (Matthew 4:19).
 - a. There are two accounts of this call in the Gospels – Matt. 4:18-22 & Mark 1:16-20.
 - b. This was not the first time Jesus had encountered these men. They had been following Jesus for several months. Now Jesus is challenging them to go deeper. They are moving from simply following Jesus to becoming His _____.
 - c. This call of Jesus was strategic:
 - i. His challenge was relational.
 - ii. His challenge was intentional.
 - iii. His challenge was missional.

- d. This call goes out to the _____. The maturing Christian who is ready to serve.
 - e. Question: Jesus calls out, "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men." Have you answered His call?
4. The Fourth Call: Go and _____ (John 15)
- a. Near the end of Jesus's earthly ministry, Jesus taught His disciples John 15:1-11 about the vine and the branches. Jesus made a couple of very profound statements.
 - b. First, Jesus called His disciples "friends" (vs 14-15).
 - i. In John 1, they are called seekers.
 - ii. In John 13:13, Jesus calls them servants or coworkers.
 - iii. But now, Jesus calls them friends.
 - c. Second, Jesus is moving them a fourth level of commitment.
 - i. He was preparing to leave, and they must now "go and bear fruit" (vs. 16).
 - ii. Jesus's desired end product was always fruit. This is a spiritual _____.
 - d. This call goes out to the _____. This is the Christian who is focused on bearing spiritual fruit and ultimately making more disciples.
 - e. Question: Jesus calls out, "I want you to go and bear fruit." Have you answered His call?

APPLICATION:

- ⇒ In a future lesson we will look more closely at these calls of Jesus. But for today, the question is simple: Which calls have you already answered? Or which call do you need to answer?
- If you are lost, Jesus is calling you to "come and see." Are you willing to give an honest look at Jesus? Are you willing to read the Bible for yourself? Are you willing to "just show up" and learn what biblical Christianity is actually about?
 - If you are sure you are saved, have you made the decision to follow Jesus? Are you a faithful follower? Are there areas of your life that you need improve your following?
 - Maybe you are a follower, but you are not a fisher! Are you willing to submit yourself to the Lord Jesus so that He might use you to reach others with the Gospel?
 - Are you a fruit bearer? There are three types of fruit mentioned in the New Testament: Christian character, Christian conduct and other Christians. Are you producing fruit?