

Go Where He Goes

Topic: Following God's call

Mark 1:14-20 HCSB After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee, preaching the good news of God: **15 "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe in the good news!"** **16** As He was passing along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, Simon's brother. They were casting a net into the sea, since they were fishermen. **17 "Follow Me,"** Jesus told them, **"and I will make you fish for people!"** **18** Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. **19** Going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in their boat mending their nets. **20** Immediately He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed Him.

Introduction

"Will you follow Jesus"? is an easy question to answer, but a challenge to live out. It is easy saying yes to Jesus, but the challenge comes when we must let those things go that hinder our Christian growth.

Picture of Jesus by the shore¹



In our text, we see four men who answered the call of Christ and followed his lead. Many of us today have heard Christ calling and decided to follow him. The Bible says that "we have been called out of darkness into his marvelous light".

Let's look at three things that we should do if we choose to follow Jesus.

Picture of first point

1. Be willing to leave what is familiar

Sometimes when we follow Jesus we must leave those things that are familiar. The Bible says that Simon and Andrew were fisherman. Jesus says that I will make you to become fishers of men. Therefore Simon and Andrew left their occupation of fishing to become disciples of Christ. When Christ makes his call to us there are some things that we must leave.

Picture of second point

2. Be willing to live by faith.

Secondly, we must live by faith. Next we see James and John (who were also known as the Sons of Thunder) mending their nets. Jesus made the call to them and they also left their father and the hired servants.

Picture of Jesus with John mending nets²



We know they had a successful business because they had men working for them. In our eyes it doesn't make much sense to leave a successful business and go to another that entails a long internship and must be built from the ground up. It doesn't make sense to leave a church membership of 2,000, and go to a church with only 20 members. It doesn't make much sense to leave a 300 voice choir, and become the minister of music of just 10.

¹ <http://servicioskoinonia.org/cerezo/dibujosB/12ordinarioB3.jpg>

² <http://www.ocarm.org/lectio/images/b28.jpg>

We shouldn't look at numbers because if you ask Gideon he will tell us just because we are outnumbered does not mean that we are outmatched. God will take the 300 few, faithful and enduring workers and make that be enough to accomplish His will.

The main point is that as Christians when God calls us we go by faith. The Bible says we walk by faith and not by sight, and if we are committed to following Christ, we must realize that discipleship is a life of faith.

Picture of third point

3. We must lay a foundation

Jesus' headquarters was in Capernaum.

Picture of map of Israel³



It was in Capernaum that many people witnessed his ministry. Isn't it strange that a man from Nazareth had to go to Capernaum for his public ministry? Sometimes the place where we grow up is the place where we are hurt the most. Sometimes in our Nazareth's, people will cut our throats, tear us down, and set us up to fail. I declare today that when doors close in Nazareth, God will open a door in Capernaum.

It is in Capernaum that we will exercise God's word, effectively do God's work, and become exciting witnesses to His unfailing love.

Conclusion

Picture of guy walking toward cross⁴



I have decided to follow Jesus and there is no turning back. The world is behind me and the cross is before me. If no one joins me still I will follow.

I tell you today these men heard a call from Jesus and they moved on his voice.

The songwriter says there is a name I love to hear, I love to sing his worth, it sounds like music in mine ear, the sweetest name on earth.

O how I love Jesus!

I tell you I hear the voice of Jesus and He is saying, "Come on."

Will you follow Jesus?

³ http://holylandarchive.com/section_images/CapernaumMap2.jpg

⁴ http://www.christart.com/wallpaper/zoom/world_behind_me_wp/jpg/640x480/