

I. THE CALL TO FOLLOW JESUS – WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

¹⁸ And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” ²⁰ They immediately left their nets and followed Him. Matt. 4:18-20

⁹ As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, “Follow Me.” So he arose and followed Him. Matt. 9:9

- A. In today’s world, starting movement that will change the world would take immense energy and serious investments of resources. Many leaders of a global movement would start by holding a summit of the movers and shakers, develop a 30 year plan, work on a financial support raising strategy, create a top notch leadership team, create the best marketing strategy to get the word out, and launch the movement with a splashy livestream event.
- B. When Jesus launched his global movement it began after a night of prayer by calling 12 ordinary men to “Follow Me!” For three plus years Jesus shared his wisdom with his disciples and then gave his life for them. After his resurrection he then gave his Spirit to them.
- C. Jesus’ method, which hasn’t changed at all, was to disciple his followers. His disciple making model was simple and it changed lives
 - 1. Jesus’ Disciple Making Model
 - a. Come with me – follow me. He called them.
 - b. Get to know me – receive my teaching. He taught them.
 - c. I will make you – let me train you. He trained them.
 - d. I will forgive you – failure is a given. He forgave them.
 - e. I will make you fishers of men – transformation. He transformed them.
 - f. As the Father sent me, I send you – sent ones. He sent them.
- D. Jesus calls disciples based on knowing what he would impart and equip them with, not based on their skills, savvy, wisdom, power, etc.

II. THE COST TO FOLLOWING JESUS – SURRENDERED, SUBMITTED, Poured OUT FOR LOVE’S SAKE

²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ²⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. Matt. 16:24-25

¹⁷ Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, “Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?” ¹⁸ So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not bear false witness,’ ‘Do not defraud,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother.’ ” ²⁰ And he answered and said to Him, “Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth.” ²¹ Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.” ²² But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Mark 10:17-22

- A. The call to discipleship is a call to surrender and submission. We allow our fleshly desires to die and be replaced with His desires.
- B. **Deny himself.** Resist the fleshly temptations and futile ways of the spirit of the age. This doesn't mean we can't go on vacations; but it means
- C. **Take up his cross.** Each disciple is called to an assignment that will seek to bring transformation to their life. The cross is an instrument of death. Jesus calls his disciples to surrender and submit as Jesus lead the way.
- D. Jesus called his disciples to follow him. Therefore, as Jesus had surrendered his life to the Father's leadership, so too, all Jesus' disciples are to surrender to the leadership of Jesus.
- E. The call to follow Jesus as his disciple is not a popular message in this season of independent self-love.
- F. Jesus' call to his disciples was a call to leave what they were doing as a life career and accept the call to a new way of life even a new path.

III. THE NATURE OF JESUS' LOVE – WHY FOLLOW JESUS?

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. Jn. 3:16

¹⁹ We love Him because He first loved us. 1Jn. 4:19

- A. There are inherent properties found in God's love...what is God's love like...that love imparted into you will seek to do the same work in and through you as it does in and through God.
- B. God's love seeks to give its best, and God's best is himself. So the love of God in you calls to you, will seek to compel you through Holy Spirit to give yourself. This is the essence of love between the Godhead and their creation.
- C. God spared no expense in setting value on humankind.

- D. We were made in the image of God, therefore we are born with the capacity to receive and give God's love. However, we were not born with God's love in us. We must repent of our worthless pursuit of lesser loves to fulfill our lives.