

Followers and Fishers
(Matthew 4:18-22)

Main Idea: Jesus calls us personally and corporately to be followers of Him and fishers of men!

I. The Call to Follow and to Become Fishers

- 1) The Historical Background. (JD Greear outlined this)
 - All Hebrew boys in those days went to what they called Torah school. You started at age 5 and would memorize large sections of the Torah.
 - Age 10: the first cut. They would learn Joshua through Malachi.
 - Age 17: the second cut. You would find a Rabbi and apply to be their Talmid (disciple)
 - The rabbis only chose the smartest and most talented.
 - In Jesus's day, there was a really rare form of rabbi we might call "Smicha" rabbis, and Jesus was the ultimate Smicha Rabbi!
- 2) Takeaways from our text:
 - a. *He didn't choose the greatest, but the weak.*
 - b. *He chose us, not we Him!*
 - c. *The call is to follow = to be with Him, to learn from Him.*
 - d. *To follow you must leave all.*
 - e. *The call is to reproduce – to multiply. "...fishers of men."*
- John 15:8
- Matthew 28:19

II. The New Testament Pattern of Making Disciples.

- A. Acts 8 – Philip obeyed the LORD to leave the crowds who were coming to the Lord in Samaria and go to a foreigner Ethiopian and help him understand the Gospel!
- B. Acts 9:10-18 – Ananias obeyed the Lord, went to Saul, laid hands on him, commissioned him, and baptized him. Saul became a believer and a flaming evangelist-missionary.
- C. Acts 9:26-28; 11:25-26 – Barnabas discipled Paul. He took him and introduced him to the apostles in Jerusalem and later went and brought him from Tarsus to Antioch.
- D. Act 16:1-3 – Paul took Timothy with him and discipled him as a son in the faith.
- E. Acts 16: 13-15 – Paul & Silas made disciples of Lydia ... and her household.
- F. Acts 16:25-34 – Paul and Silas made disciples of the Philippian jailer ... and his household.

- G. Acts 18:1-3 – Paul found, stayed with, and worked with Aquila and Priscilla (and no doubt discipled them).
- H. Acts 18:18 – Paul took Aquila and Priscilla with him and left them in Ephesus.
- I. Acts 18:24-28 – Priscilla and Aquila discipled Apollos.
- J. 2 Timothy 2:2 – Paul challenged Timothy to keep passing on the teachings to other disciples who could teach others!
 - The point: ***Disciples make disciples!***
 - Merriam Webster's definition of disciple: "*one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another*"

III. The Metric is Obedience, not Knowledge.

- Matthew 28:20
- John 14:15
- 1 Cor. 8:1
- James 1:22

Conclusion: Practical ways to respond: (This is personal and corporate!)

1. Spend time daily with Jesus!
2. Plug in to serving!
3. Plug in to a small group!
4. Who's Your One?
5. Jesus has chosen you to be a part of His great plan to make disciples of all the nations!!! Be motivated by that!
6. You are empowered by His Holy Spirit to make disciples! Submit and depend on Him to work in and through you!
7. If you're not a believer, turn and believe in Jesus Christ!

In Robert Coleman's classic work on making disciples, *The Master Plan of Evangelism*, he wrote: "*When will the church learn this lesson? Preaching to the masses, although necessary, will never suffice in the work of preparing leaders for evangelism. Nor can occasional prayer meetings and training classes for Christian workers do this job ... Individual women and men are God's method. God's plan for discipleship is not something, but someone.*"