

Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, November 1, 2020

Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew

Message 13. Follow Me – Matthew 4:18-22 - Pastor Phillip M Way

Introduction: In Matthew's account of the beginning of Jesus' ministry, we are given the location – Galilee; the message – repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand; and the methodology – calling disciples.

- I. Four Fishermen – vs. 18-22
 - A. The Earlier Call – John 1:35-51
 - B. The Special Call
 1. “He had called them by grace, now He calls them to work!” – CHS
 2. Jesus' call of others is related in Matthew 9-10, but these 4 started earlier in Galilee
 - C. The Four Called
 1. Simon Peter – first in every list – Matt. 10:2-4; Mark 3:16-19; Luke 6:13-16; Acts 1:13
 2. Andrew – always bringing people to Jesus – John 1:40-42; 6:8-9; 12:20-22
 3. James – first disciple to be martyred, killed by Herod – Acts 12:1-2
 4. John – the disciple whom Jesus loved – John 13:23; 19:26 – died naturally though in exile on Patmos
- II. Follow Me – vs. 19
 - A. An Imperial Call with Royal Promise
 1. I will make you fishers of men
 2. Being an evangelist is very much like fishing – patience, persuasion, perseverance
 - B. An Effectual Call
 1. They followed without hesitation
 2. They left their nets, boat, and even family
 3. “They came straightway at all cost, without question, to quit old haunts, to follow their Leader without stipulation or reserve.” - CHS
 - C. A Call to Walk as He Walks
 1. Salvation – to follow Christ we must turn from sin and self and to the Savior in faith
 2. Obedience – a command, immediately they left and followed – “Without obedience there is no genuine Christianity.” – Boice – John 14:15
 3. Repentance – Jesus calls sinners! – Matt. 9:13; Luke 5:8 – we renounce sin to follow
 4. Holiness – to follow Jesus is to strive to be like Jesus – holy, without a sinful step, word, or thought – 1 Peter 1:15-16
 5. Submission – put on His yoke – Matt. 11:29-30 – yoked for work, do the work He has called you to do as His bondservant – 1 Cor. 6:20; 7:23
 6. Trust – if you do not trust you cannot follow, do not follow yourself – Luke 9:62
 7. Perseverance – repeated, daily – Luke 9:23; a lifetime commitment until the race is finished – Matt. 10:22; 24:13; Psa. 119:105, 112
- III. Finish or Fall Away – Matt. 8:18-22
 - A. Consider the Cost
 1. Cheap Grace vs. Costly Grace
 - a. Jesus had no place to lay His head – Judea rejected Him (John 5:18), Galilee cast Him out (John 6:66), Gadara begged Him to leave (Matt. 8:34), Samaria refused Him lodging (Luke 9:53), earth would not have Him (Matt. 27:23), and heaven forsook Him (Matt. 27:46) – Hendrickson
 - b. Boice Quote – “In days of hardship...”
 - c. Bonhoeffer quote – “Cheap grace...”
 2. Family Obligations – Matt. 10:35-36
 - a. Let the dead bury their dead

- 1) Dead were buried same day they died
 - 2) He wanted to wait until his father died, then follow
 - 3) You cannot put discipleship off – now/today – James 4:13-17; 2 Cor. 6:1-2
- b. “It was a grave fault to put the sepulcher before the Saviour.” - CHS
- B. Priorities and Dangers
1. The radical demands of Christ’s kingdom mean following Jesus – this is not part time or crowded out by other commitments
 2. The unique authority of Jesus means that if He is God we owe Him immediate and total obedience
 3. The priorities of true discipleship mean that we must be willing to obey even if Jesus asks us to sell all, forsake all – “Following Jesus is the most important thing in our lives, even more important than our lives.” – Boice
 4. GE Ladd Quote – “The most radical form...”
 5. The dangers of this hedonistic world – “If I can be kept from Christ by the normal and proper love that I should have for parents, spouse, children, and siblings, as Christ obviously teaches I can be, then how dangerous must the many other snares of this world be?” – Boice
 6. JC Ryle Quote – “It is not open sin...”
- C. What Will Keep You from Following Jesus? – those are your idols

Boice Quote – “In days of hardship, particularly in periods of persecution, those who are in the process of becoming Christians count the cost carefully before taking up Christ’s cross. In good times, in prosperous times, the cost does not seem so high, and people take the name of Christ without undergoing the radical transformation that true conversion implies.” (*The Gospel of Matthew*, Volume 1, pg. 131)

Bonhoeffer Quote – “Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, without the cross, without Jesus Christ living and incarnate. Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field, for the sake of it a man will gladly go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price, to buy which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble. It is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows Him. Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ.” (*The Cost of Discipleship*, pg. 47)

GE Ladd Quote – “The most radical form of renunciation includes a man’s very life; unless he hates his own life he cannot be a disciple (Luke 14:26). Obviously, this does not mean that every disciple must die; he must, however, be ready to do so. He no longer lives for himself but for the Kingdom of God. What happens to him is unimportant; for the fate of the Kingdom is important. In the place of selfish attainment, however altruistic and noble, one is to desire alone the rule of God.” (*Jesus and the Kingdom: The Eschatology of Biblical Realism*, pg. 295-96)

JC Ryle – “It is not open sin, or open unbelief, which robs Christ of His professing servants, so much as the love of the world, the fear of the world, the cares of the world, the pleasures of the world, the business of the world, the money of the world, and the desire to keep in touch with the world. This is the great rock on which thousands of young people are continually making shipwreck. They do not object to any article of the Christian faith. They do not deliberately choose evil and openly rebel against God. They hope somehow to get to heaven at last, and they think it proper to have some religion. But they cannot give up their idol: they must have the world. And so after running well and bidding fair for heaven while boys and girls, they turn aside when they become men and women and go down the broad way which leads to destruction. They begin with Abraham and Moses and end with Demas and Lot’s wife.” (*Practical Religion: Being Plain Papers on Daily Duties, Experience, Dangers, and Privileges of Professing Christians*, pg. 187-88)

Cross References

John 1:35-51

35 Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. 36 And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" 37 The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. 38 Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?" 39 He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour). 40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone). 43 The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." 44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." 46 And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." 47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" 48 Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." 49 Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" 50 Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." 51 And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Matthew 10:2-4

2 Now 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 Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.

Mark 3:16-19

16 Simon, to whom He gave the name Peter; 17 James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James, to whom He gave the name Boanerges, that is, "Sons of Thunder"; 18 Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Cananite; 19 and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. And they went into a house.

Luke 6:13-16

13 And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles: 14 Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; James and John; Philip and Bartholomew; 15 Matthew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called the Zealot; 16 Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot who also became a traitor.

Acts 1:13

13 And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James.

John 1:40-42

40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).

John 6:8-9

8 One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, 9 "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?"

John 12:20-22

20 Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast. 21 Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." 22 Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus.

Acts 12:1-2

12 Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. 2 Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

John 13:23

23 Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.

John 19:26

26 When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!"

John 14:15

15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

Matthew 9:13

13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

Luke 5:8

8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"

1 Peter 1:15-16

15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

Matthew 11:29-30

29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

1 Corinthians 6:20

20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

1 Corinthians 7:23

23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.

Luke 9:62

62 But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Luke 9:23

23 Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

Matthew 10:22

22 And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.

Matthew 24:13

13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

Psalms 119:105, 112

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

112 I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes forever, to the very end.

Matthew 8:18-22

18 And when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a command to depart to the other side. 19 Then a certain scribe came and said to Him, “Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.” 20 And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” 21 Then another of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” 22 But Jesus said to him, “Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”

Matthew 10:35-36

35 For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; 36 and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’

James 4:13-17

13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; 14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. 15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." 16 But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. 17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

2 Corinthians 6:1-2

6 We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. 2 For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

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