

THE CALL TO FOLLOW JESUS

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—June 26th, 2022

Mark 1:16–20

(ESV)

[16] Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. [17] And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” [18] And immediately they left their nets and followed him. [19] And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. [20] And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

INTRODUCTION

“When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.” –Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

Guiding thought: The call to follow Christ is a call to die, and through the call Christ’s provides grace and sacrifice.

DISCIPLESHIP IS A CALL OF GRACE (VS. 16-18)

What is Jesus’ call to discipleship?

1) A call to a relationship with Christ

The call Jesus issues to all of us is first and foremost a call to himself, and not to his service.

- **Jeremiah 9:24**—[24] *but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.*
- **Matthew 11:29**—*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.*
- **Ephesians 4:20**—*This is not how you learned Christ...*
- **Philippians 3:8**—*Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ...*

A church that puts service before Christ is a church that is going to put the interests of self before the interests of Christ. A church that seeks to first know Christ is a church that will put the interest of Christ before the interest of self.

2) A call to be equipped by Christ

Christ equips through the Spirit

Ephesians 4:8—*Therefore it says, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.”*

Christ equips through the Church

Ephesians 4:11–12—[11] *And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, [12] to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...*

Inadequacy does not disqualify one from following Christ; it is actually a prerequisite.

2 Corinthians 3:4–5—[4] *Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. [5] Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God...*

A humble discipler, in his strength recognizes the grace of God, and in his weakness recognizes his need for the grace of God.

“Discipling in the gospel means that sometimes you lead the way in confessing weakness or sin. By doing so, you demonstrate what it looks like not to find your justification in yourself, but in Christ. And so you live transparently and honestly.” —**Mark Dever**, *Discipling*

The key to humility in discipleship a deep faith in the gospel!

Habakkuk 1:15

[The wicked] brings all of them up with a hook;
he drags them out with his net;
he gathers them in his dragnet;
so he rejoices and is glad.

DISCIPLESHIP IS A CALL TO SACRIFICE (VS. 19-20)

1) The call to discipleship is a call to completely abandon all things for the sake of Christ.

Most of us will not fail to follow Christ because of vices, but some of us might fail to follow the Lord because of virtues that are supposed to be secondary but became ultimate

Luke 9:57–62—[57] *As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” [58] 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.” [59] To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” [60] And Jesus said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” [61] Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” [62] Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”*

2) Jesus’ call to discipleship is a call to redirect the treasures of the heart.

Jesus’ call is to keep our hearts from idolatry.

Matthew 6:21—*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

Luke 14:26—*“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.”*

Christianity is exclusive, it leaves no room for rivalry.

3) Jesus’ call to discipleship is a call to conversion.

You can’t serve Christ if you haven’t been transformed by Christ.