Walking In The Footsteps Of Jesus

The Call to Follow Jesus

John 1:35-43

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- 35 Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;
- 36 And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!
- 37 And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.
- 38 Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?

John 1:35-43 - continued

- 39 He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.
- 40 One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.
- 41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.
- 42 And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.
 43 The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.

Introduction

A. To hear the call you must tune out everything else except the call

B. To heed the call you must understand the purpose of the call

C. To follow the call you must actively pursue the call

I. The Call To Discipleship

A. Jesus calls us to leave behind our old life Matthew 4:19

And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

- 1. A new direction
- 2. A new desire

I. The Call To Discipleship

- B. Following Jesus requires commitment and surrender Luke 9:23
- And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me
 - 1. The difference required
 - 2. The dedication required
- Luke 5:10-11
- 10 And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. 11 And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.

I. The Call To Discipleship

- C. Following Jesus involves learning from Him John 10:27
- My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.
 - 1. A binding commitment
- **Matthew 11:29**
- Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.
 - 2. A believing commitment
- **Ephesians 4:20-21**
- 20 But ye have not so learned Christ;
- 21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

A. Following Jesus requires self-denial Luke 14:27

And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

- A. Following Jesus requires self-denial continued
 - 1. An instructive command
 - a. A constant state
- **Romans 6:11**
- Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 - b. A conquering state
- Hebrews 12:2
- Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

- A. Following Jesus requires self-denial continued
 - 2. An individual command
- Galatians 6:5
- For every man shall bear his own burden.

- **B.** Discipleship involves choosing Jesus over everything else
 - 1. The concept

Matthew 10:37

He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

- **B.** Discipleship involves choosing Jesus over everything else continued
 - 2. The challenge

Mark 10:21-22

- 21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.
- 22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

C. The reward for following Jesus is eternal life Mark 10:29-30

And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

- 1. A conclusion
- 2. A comparison

III. The Power Of Following Jesus

- A. Following Jesus leads to transformation that ...
 - 1. Needs to be recognized
- 2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

- 2. Needs to reminded
- 1 Corinthians 6:11

And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

III. The Power Of Following Jesus

- B. Jesus empowers us to do His will
- Matthew 28:18-20
- 18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.
- 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
- 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

III. The Power Of Following Jesus

- C. By following Jesus, we receive eternal rewards
 - 1. An active following
- **Colossians 3:22-23**
- 23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;
- 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.
 - 2. An aware following
- 2 John 8
- Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

Are You Walking In Jesus' Footsteps Or Your Own Footsteps?