

Follow Me  
The Call  
5/19/19

Introduction

We are studying how Jesus called His disciples and what that call meant for them and us  
Jesus is calling us on a journey that will fulfill His purpose for your life and this church  
Begin by looking the journey to which He called His disciples – it is the same as ours  
Last week we introduced the call -  
Today we begin to look at exactly what Jesus called them to do and how He called them

Background to discipleship

At this time many Jewish teachers, called Rabbis, had come, each with his own focus & message

A rabbi would have a particular interpretation of scripture or a focus

They would have a group of followers called disciples

Disciple – one who follows the teaching of a rabbi (def: teacher)

Not a casual relationship, but committed to learn, live and pass on the rabbi's particular view

Required regular teaching times, memorization & application

He would become devoted to his rabbi

Three slightly different accounts in the gospels of Jesus calling His disciples

**John 1:35-49**

John had his own disciples who followed him

John drew attention to Jesus as the Lamb of God

Andrew apparently following John leaves to inquire of this rabbi

Jesus calls Philip to follow Him – Nathaniel ?

**Matt 4:18-22** - Peter, Andrew, John & James, from their fishing nets

Peter, Andrew & John may have already had a contact with Him – John 1

Same invitation as Philip – follow Me

**Luke 5:1-11** – the setting may be same as Matt but adds that Jesus used their boat

Peter has a revelation of who the rabbi is through the miracle of fish

Peter's obedience, in spite of the natural evidence, created the opportunity for him to see who Jesus was

What about the differences?

Most likely John's account is earlier & shows that some of them had seen Him

Luke provides more detail than Matthew

The simplicity of His call – what each of these accounts have in common

Exactly what has He called us to do? "FOLLOW ME"

1. The simplicity of His call

a. We want to add to it and make it complicated

i. Our minds like to make things complicated so we can add our ideas

ii. It seems too simple – there must be more

b. We get easily distracted by other issues that we (or others) think are important

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- i. **2 Cor 11:3** Satan deceives us to distract from the simplicity in Christ
  - ii. **Eph 4:13-14**
- 2. Follow – what it means simply to follow
  - a. **Deut 9:15-23** – example of how God led and Israel followed in the wilderness
    - i. Simply when it moved, they moved and when it stopped they stopped
    - ii. They had to stay aware of where it was & what it was doing
  - b. Can't be looking at where you are going or where you have been
    - i. Then take your eyes off of who you are to follow
    - ii. Our fallen nature wants to know where we are going
      - 1. We still trust somewhat in our own understanding
      - 2. God doesn't tell us much, so we have to trust Him
  - c. Example of someone following me -
  - d. You have to depend on the one you are following to get you there
  - e. Truly following develops an intimate relationship in the one you follow
  - f. **John 14:2-7** He is still teaching them to just follow Him
    - i. Philip trying to understand where they will be going so he can figure what he has to do to get there
    - ii. Jesus redirects Philip's attention to Himself
- 3. He did not tell them where they were going, what they were going to do or what it would cost.
  - a. There is a freedom and rest in just trusting and following
    - i. If the one you are following is trustworthy
    - ii. E.g. the rest of a child on a long trip
  - b. If we knew these answers, we may not go, or we would go too soon
    - i. He knows how to get you ready for whatever he has for you to do
    - ii. Moses as an example – tried to get the Israelites to follow him too soon
      - 1. They weren't ready to leave
      - 2. He was not ready as a leader

Learning what it means to follow will be important for our journey with Jesus for all these reasons

- 1. If we simply follow, we will not be anxious about many issues we are anxious about
- 2. It will teach us to take our eyes off of ourselves and to see only Jesus
  - a. **Heb 12:1-2**
  - b. How we will finish our race
- 3. We will accomplish what He has called us to do not what we want to do for Him
  - a. **Matt 7:21-23**
  - b. It is doing the Father's will that matters

Psalm 37:23 – “the steps of a righteous man are ordered of the Lord and He delights in his way.”