

Follow Me
Who Is Calling? - 2
6/16/19

Matt 4:18-22 – we are looking at how Jesus called His disciples and their response as a way to understand His call to us

Saw that He called them simply to follow Him – what follow means

We saw who called them – it was into a personal relationship, not a cause or church or a movement

Last week we saw that the one who called them was the Lord, the Son of God

Their response to Him was because of who He is

Ended in Matt 7 – calling Him Lord but not submitted to Father's will

Concept of His Lordship can conjure a fear that can scare us away from Him

Ex 20:20-21 – shows contrasting fears of God

Israel had just seen the fire & thunder of God's power on Sinai

Their reaction was to run away in fear of Him and Moses drew near

Difference is that Moses knew the heart of God - that He loved him

Luke 15:1-2 – the tax collectors and sinners drew near to Jesus to hear Him

Although He is Lord and holy, yet they were not afraid of Him –

They sensed something about Him other than His Lordship

His love that sent Him to put us above everything else, us drew them

Jesus is a shepherd not a taskmaster

In Egypt they had taskmasters – used fear and punishment to motivate obedience

Shepherd leads through a loving relationship with the sheep – you can't drive sheep

John 10:11-15 –

HE is the good shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep

Someone who does not shepherd out of love for sheep will not sacrifice for them

The One who calls us to follow Him is not only Lord (last week) but He loves us without limit

John 13:1 – He loved them to the end – the fullest possible

Gal 2:20 – the one we are to give ourselves to, gave Himself for us

Why can I trust this love?

1. It is not based on His best interest but mine.

John 15:13 – the measure of love is what you will give for another

Rom 8:31-32 – Matthew Henry quote

Rom 8:38-39

Eph 2:4-7 –

To satisfy His love for us

Show He can show His kindness

2. This love has already been taking care of us – whether or not we realize it.

Ps 139:1-10 – how aware of us He is

Heb 13:5-6 – He will never fail us or let us down

Matt 6:8 – He already knows our needs before we do

3. Even when He corrects us it is because of our good

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Heb 12:5-11

He wants us to mature so that our obedience to our Lord is a response to His love for us, not out of fear of punishment.

John 14:15 – our obedience is out of our love for Him
e.g. would rather have children obey out of love & respect

Eph 3:14-20 – Paul's prayer for the church

All believers, together, are the family & He is the Father of that family

"For this reason," refers to **Eph 2:22**

Need the Spirit to empower us to do this

Christ may live in us – live His life and will through us

What he wants us to know is "rooted" and "grounded" in His love for us

Then the limitlessness of Christ's love

How wide, how deep, how long, how high

There is no limit to who he loves

Matthew Henry Quote:

The ground of the challenge is God's being for us; in this he sums up all our privileges. This includes all, that God is for us; not only reconciled to us, and so not against us, but in covenant with us, and so engaged for us-all his attributes for us, his promises for us. All that he is, and has, and does, is for his people. He performs all things for them. He is for them, even when he seems to act against them. And, if so, who can be against us, so as to prevail against us, so as to hinder our happiness? Be they ever so great and strong, ever so many, ever so might, ever so malicious, what can they do? While God is for us, and we keep in his love, we may with a holy boldness defy all the powers of darkness. Let Satan do his worst, he is chained; let the world do its worst, it is conquered: principalities and powers are spoiled and disarmed, and triumphed over, in the cross of Christ. Who then dares fight against us, while God himself is fighting for us? And this we say to these things, this is the inference we draw from these premises"