



The Life of Christ Series: Following Jesus Completely *Mark 1:16-34*

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In verses 16-20, we see the phrase "Follow Me" - Jesus says this a lot in the gospels about discipleship. When was the last time someone came up to you and said "I would like to Disciple you, come with me" Discipleship is simply training and teaching others to learn from Jesus to live like Jesus. **A DISCIPLE is a pupil or learner who is GROWING in his relationship with Jesus Christ and LEARNING how to follow him in every area of life.** May we all be a learner today as learn from God's Word. Also, following Jesus encompasses four elements: **1. BECOMING** - *is living your life DAILY as a follower of Jesus Christ and becoming more like Him in EVERY aspect of your life.* (Chapter 1) We are always becoming something whether good or bad. God is being and since you and I were created, we are always becoming. **2. KNOWING** - *learning and becoming FAMILIAR in the truth of God's Word. SATURATING your life with God's Word establishes a biblical worldview.* (Chapter 1) Do we know Jesus and the plans He has for us all? **3. SEEING** - *gaining understanding of how God specifically wants to use you for His Kingdom and actively engaging in service.* (Chapter 3:13) **4. DOING** - *purposefully making disciples who will continue the multiplication of disciples as we seek worldwide impact.* (Chapter 6:7)

READ, Mark 1:16-34

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. ²¹ And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. ²² And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. ²³ And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ²⁴ "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God."²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶ And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷ And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority!

He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." 28 And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee. 29 And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. 30 Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. 31 And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them. 32 That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. 33 And the whole city was gathered together at the door. 34 And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

(Verse 16-20)

1. BECOMING – living your life DAILY as a follower of Jesus Christ and BECOMING more like Him in every aspect of your life. Jesus CALLS His Disciples. In verse 17, He takes on the responsibility of discipling these men as a small group who were willing to follow Him when He was willing to lead them. Often, we just need people to lead us. We need that person to take us by the hand and parent us until we are ready to be their partner and participate. Verses 2:13-17 This person is surname Matthew, a tax collector who was legally impure.

He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. 14 And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. 15 And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. 16 And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" 17 And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

The person who willfully OBEYS consistently GROWS. He is not looking for the hardest worker, but for the humblest learner. We follow Jesus by learning His Word, obeying His Word, and living our His Word with each other. Paul instructs Timothy, "Practice these things; be committed to them, so that your progress may be evident to all." 1 Timothy 4:15. In other words, it matters how you are growing and how you're leading others to grow. Robby Gallaty says in his book *Rediscovering Discipleship*, "Hell will not be able to hold back the church if we take Discipleship seriously. Jesus says he is going to unleash a movement that will be so powerful and intense that it will be unstoppable. This movement is alive and growing. **The church is designed to move people to greater levels of COMMITMENT and RELATIONSHIPS.** All steps must take people somewhere."

Let us be a church of "learners" more than a church of "workers". In verse 17-18, Jesus said, "I will make you fishers of men" - Fishing was a livelihood or business for these men.

Leaving their nets meant leaving their income, their family, their comfort and possibly their life for the sake of trusting in Jesus' Words. There was no business man or woman in the world to take an offer like this and simply walk away from everything to follow this man. The more we spend time with God, the closer our relationship gets. Jesus chose to disciple these men for the next three years for the primary purpose of Evangelism, and it remains the central mission for His people. **When we invest in KINGDOM work, it impacts our EARTHLY work.**

(Verse 21-34)

2. KNOWING – learning and becoming FAMILIAR in the truth of God's

Word. SATURATING your life with God's Word establishes a biblical worldview. In verse 21, **Jesus COMMISSIONS His Disciples.** Capernaum was a prosperous fishing village on the NW shore of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus would spend most of His time with His disciples in this city. Many people would come to the synagogue for worship and to hear instruction from God. It was only fitting that Jesus begins teaching His recent followers here. In verse 22, we see a contrast of Jesus' teaching in comparison with the Rabbi's. Jesus' teaching was the spoken Word of God. He was direct, personal and forceful with His words with new content of the coming kingdom and the defeat of Satan; the Rabbi's were astonished! In the Synagogue, **Jesus MINISTERED and the disciples WATCHED him.** Jesus taught while the disciples observed, listened, and learned as part of the crowd. My question for you and for me, **who are you watching and learning from? Also consider, who is watching you? Do others want to know more about Jesus because of you?**

Jesus always triumphs over Satan's tactics until His ultimate victory by His resurrection. This unclean spirit, morally impure demon caused this man to speak out to Jesus saying "Why do you interfere with us?" This demon acknowledged Jesus' sinlessness and deity as the "Holy One of God". The demon was aware that he and Jesus belong to two different kingdoms. James 2:19 states "even Demons believe in God and they fear and tremble." **Jesus' power to establish His kingdom in the face of evil is displayed in SILENCE.** Look at verses 29-34, notice the pattern that occurs between Demons and Jesus. They cannot even speak in the presence of the Son of God even though they know the truth about Jesus, they reject it and God, who is its source. **Jesus had absolute authority in His ACTIONS as well as His WORDS.**

So, here are young disciples with Jesus listening while a man stands up in opposition. The calmness of everyone about these demon-possessed people among Galilee's Jewish population demonstrates the Gentile or pagan influence over them. Notice, the response in verse 27-28, these people are desperate for something new, including the Rabbi's. They were astonished & amazed wanting more of what Jesus offers yet they were not willing to Follow Him completely. According to this account, the Galileans were looking for a performance of power instead of a redeeming relationship.