

## ULC Sermon Study Resource

### Basic // What is Discipleship?

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**Prayer:** Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

**Icebreaker:** Who is someone you consider a professional/academic mentor? Why?

**Reading:** Matthew 4:18-22

#### Outline:

- I. Jesus Sees You
  - a. Discipleship begins with Jesus seeing us. Following Jesus in every area of our lives can be costly, so unless we recognize that discipleship begins with Jesus seeing us, it becomes an impossible burden to bear.
  - b. Jesus sees us, all we've done, all we will do, and He still chooses us. He sees us fully for who we are, and He calls us to follow Him.

**Q: How does Jesus's call to us, with all of our faults, demonstrate His unending love?**
- II. Jesus Calls You
  - a. Bonhoeffer says, "When we are called to follow Christ, we are summoned to an exclusive attachment to his person. The grace of his call bursts all the bonds of legalism. It is a gracious call, a gracious command..."
  - b. Discipleship is an attachment to the person of Jesus Christ. It is being united to Him. It is a call to find ourselves bound to Christ, and not by our own choosing but because he chose us.

**Q: What are some things that get in the way of viewing discipleship as an honor?**
- III. You Respond
  - a. The two biggest hurdles to radical discipleship to Jesus are apathy and embarrassment. But do not forsake the call he's placed on our lives. The value we place on Jesus determines our response to his call in our life.
  - b. Discipleship must begin and end with the grace of God. We should hear the call to follow Jesus with our whole lives. To be like him, and to do what he would do if he were us. And if we fail, to see the grace he won for us on the cross.

**Q: When are sometimes where you struggle to act in the way that Jesus would?**

#### Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) How does knowing that Jesus fully sees us help us understand God's grace?
- 2) How can you draw comfort knowing that Jesus still loves you, and calls to you, even with your flaws?
- 3) What are ways you can spend more time with Jesus, so that you may learn to be more like Him?
- 4) What are ways to overcome feelings of apathy and embarrassment that get in the way of radical discipleship?

#### Suggestions for further study:

- Luke 6:40      **Q: In what areas of your life could you be more like Jesus?**
- Proverbs 27:17      **Q: How can your faith be strengthened by walking with other disciples of Jesus?**

#### Closing Prayer:

Gracious God, we thank you for the invitation to follow you. We thank you for your call to us, and that even when we fail, your grace remains. Teach us to live our whole lives following after you. Help guide our hearts so that we may become more like you. Amen.