

Jesus said 'Follow Me'

Matthew 4:12-25

Matt 4:12-25

12 Now when He heard that John had been taken into custody, He withdrew into Galilee; *in the town of SP Lk 1:14*

13 and leaving Nazareth, He came and settled in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. *BEACH TOWN*

14 This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet, saying,

15 "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles--

16 "The people who were sitting in darkness saw a great light, and to those who were sitting in the land and shadow of death, upon them a light dawned." (Isaiah 9:1,2)

Jesus left familiar surroundings, security of hometown and set up ministry headquarters in Capernaum. Security of familiarity is deadly to faith. Fear of moving outside familiar surroundings causes the creeping disease of sp lethargy.

*NEW THING
CC - ELD
BORG - ME
HARD COME*

Capernaum had reputation as being uncultured, crude, unsophisticated. A place to recruit soldiers not scholars, thugs not thinkers. He uses foolish to confound wise. He still looks for the outcasts, marginal, not very talented, checked past, the weak to confound the strong

Soon after John's arrest he is beheaded. *Why didn't Jesus rescue John?* Instead Jesus 'withdrew into Galilee' went in opposite direction (in power of spirit). Why do bad things happen to God's people?

There are times when bad things come our way and it seems God moves away. *Ps 10:1 Why do You stand afar off, O LORD? Why do You hide Yourself in times of trouble?*

He doesn't in reality! It's us not Him. He's teaching us He's as near in bad times as in good. Our perspective needs changing. Troubled times make me look at me and my predicament. Peter started out in faith w/ eyes on Jesus, walking on water. Only when he took his eyes off the Lord and on himself and surrounding did he sink.

We get that sinking feeling in troubled times, not that God has left us but we no longer perceive Him w/ eyes of faith.

Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Heb 3:12 Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God.

Looking at myself and my problems hide the Lord. A person can stand in suns shadow and block it out. Jesus was hidden from Zaccheus by the crowd til he climbed up higher and got a new perspective. Spies: saw giants or victory

Ps 139:7-10 Where can I go from Thy Spirit? Or where can I flee from Thy presence? If I ascend to heaven, Thou art there; if I make my bed in Sheol, behold, Thou art there. If I take the wings of the dawn, if I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, Even there Thy hand will lead me, and Thy right hand will lay hold of me.

*From
m, T.
of
in*

Jesus said 'Follow Me'

Matthew 4:12-25

Mature faith trusts God in good times and bad, in times of joy and sorrow, when blessed or cursed, living for Christ or dying for Him. Our Christian life is not determined by circumstances. John trusted though he wasn't rescued.

When Ignatius was thrown to the lions, he cried, **"Let me be food for the wild beasts, if only God be glorified!"**

As Polycarp was being burned he said, **"I thank You, O Father, You numbered me among the martyrs."**

Latimer looked through the flames to Ridley, and cried, **"Be of good cheer, Brother Ridley. . We shall light a candle, by God's grace, in England this day, as shall never be put out again."**

John faithfully served God's purpose, preparing **the way of the Lord**. His mission complete-God took him. Now all attention is on Jesus lest some say *I am of John* and *I am of Jesus*. **In the year king Uzziah died I saw the Lord** said Isaiah.

What the moon is to the sun so John to Jesus. When the sun rises there is no longer need for the light of the moon.

17 From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Jesus passion was to preach. Repent: To turn or return. Change your mind. Grieve over sin, be so sorry for it you turn away from it, head in the opposite direction. **Eph 4:28 Let him who steals steal no longer; but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have something to share with him who has need.**

Reason w/ mind it is wrong. Feel bad in heart to the point of making a willful decision to turn away from sin and to the Lord.

O.T — difficulty in breathing - to sigh, pant, groan **Ps 6:6 I am weary with my sighing; every night I make my bed swim, I dissolve my couch with my tears.**

Repentance is God's key unlocking salvation ^(GIVE US COMMISSION)...w/o repentance there is no forgiveness of sin. **Luke 24:46-47 and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and rise again from the dead the third day; and that repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.**

BAPT

It is the same message John declared. And will not change throughout the ages. **Gal 1:8 But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed.**

NO GOSPEL w/o REPENTANCE

There is no repentantless salvation. But in God's goodness and by His wonderful love He makes us want to change and puts a desire in our heart to repent then grants repentance to us. It's God's work in us bringing us to salvation. **Acts 11:18 And when they heard this, they quieted down, and glorified God, saying, "Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life."**

PETER EXPLAINS
TO THOSE IN 9th
CONVULSION

Repentance and salvation brings w/ it change. **2 Cor 7:9,10 I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, in order**

PAUL ISSUES
IMMEDIACY

Jesus said 'Follow Me'

Matthew 4:12-25

that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

Peter and Judas were both sorry. Judas regretted what he'd done and committed suicide. Peter's sorrow produced repentance and he committed salvation.

Acts 26:20 but kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.

Acts 17:30 "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent,

Practice of religion w/o repentance is the curse of Christianity today. Harvard President graduation speech in Boston (Stephen O) "I am a gay Christian"

Acts 8:22-24 "Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you. "For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity." I am an Iniquitous Christian – Immoral Christian – I'm a Christian thief.

Acts 3:19 "Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;

Where there's a kingdom there is a king. Repentance has to do w/ abdicating the throne of your life and installing Jesus as king. *He reigns as king over our life his kingdom.*

18 And walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.

19 And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

20 And they immediately left the nets, and followed Him.

21 And going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them.

22 And they immediately left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

Casting nets, mending nets. Daily routine of life – vocation, career, living. Great if you like doing it. Illus person behind me - I live for my vacation, I get depressed days before I know I have to go back to daily grind

We don't know what became of Zebedee, we know Salome was devoted and her boys followed. Youth is the age to be called for God. Age sets us in our ways, like cement, can't be shaped after a certain point.

Jesus comes to each of us in the mundane of daily routine or in the excitement of our career and says follow me. I'll make life worth living. I'll give you meaning and purpose in the midst of your vocation. I'll use you for a higher purpose than being successful, excelling in your profession. I'll use you to catch souls for my kingdom.

Jesus said 'Follow Me'

Matthew 4:12-25

Following may involve giving up a career, changing professions, or dedicating your occupation or business to the Lord. **There is no higher purpose in life than to be used of God.** Allowing Him to work through you to touch lives for Christ. I caught waves, shaped surfboards until Jesus said follow me, catch souls and shape lives by my word. Peter casting net 3000, John mending-love.

CAREEN OFTEN
REFLECTS CALLING

Jesus walks by and keeps walking by calling you to follow Him. Put Him before career and family.

23 And Jesus was going about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.

24 And the news about Him went out into all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, taken with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them.

25 And great multitudes followed Him from Galilee and Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and from beyond the Jordan.

Note Jesus example.

Teaching for building out BEL. FAITH
Preaching for bringing in BACKSLIDERS & SINNERS
Healing for binding up BROKEN LIVES

Often healing ministries are unbalanced and harmful because there is not the priority of Gods word taught as the foundation for faith. If Jesus is our example teaching and preaching must precede healing. Jesus healed all the hurting.

Josephus said there were over 200 cities in Galilee w/ population no less than 15,000 each. The towns named cover a 100 mile radius. People literally walked hundreds of mile to see Jesus. Think about it the next time you say oh it's such a long drive to church.

- SECURITY OF FAMILIARITY
- TRUST HIM IN GOOD TIMES & BAD
- REPENTANCE IS KEY UNLOCK SAL.
- GODS CALLING YOU TO FOLLOW — CAREEN OFTEN REFLECTS CALL
- PRIORITIES TEACHING, PREACHING, HEALING