A Lesson on Beginning

Text

**MATTHEW 4:18-20**

**8**Now as Jesus was 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, “[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+4%3A18-20&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-23229a)]Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” **20**Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

**Overview**

Peter's education as a disciple began on a day much like any other day in the life of a fisherman. In this lesson, we see the Lord Jesus Christ making a personal call on Peter, and we see Peter responding to that call. Peter's decision at this time to follow the Lord set the course for the rest of his life.

**Lesson Goals**

At the conclusion of this lesson, students should:

1. Understand that the Lord has a purpose for the life of every person.

2. Realize that the calling involves both a calling to and a calling from.

3. Choose to follow the Lord wherever He may lead.

**Teaching Outline**

1. The Calling

A. The person of the call

B. The purpose of the call

2. The Leaving

A. Leaving earthly pursuits

B. Leaving personal ties

3. The Following

A. Following requires faith.

B. Faith replaces fear.

**REVELATION 4:11 - 11**“Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=REVELATION+4%3A11&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-30781a)]existed, and were created.”

**1 CORINTHIANS 10:31 -**Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

**JAMES 1:22-25 - 22**But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. **23**For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JAMES+1%3A22-25&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-30290a)]natural face in a mirror; **24**for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JAMES+1%3A22-25&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-30291b)]he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. **25**But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JAMES+1%3A22-25&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-30292c)]an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JAMES+1%3A22-25&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-30292d)]what he does. What was that call like for Peter?

**Matthew 4:19** - And He \*said to them, “[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=+Matthew+4%3A19&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-23229a)]Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

**JEREMIAH 29:11 -**For I know the plans that I [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JEREMIAH+29%3A11&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-19647a)]have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:15 -** and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

**LUKE 19:10 -** For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

**JOHN 15:16 - 16**You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

**MATTHEW 28:18-20 - 18**And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19**[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+28%3A18-20&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24215a)]Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **20**teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+28%3A18-20&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24216b)]always, even to the end of the age.”

**GENESIS 2:24** - For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

**1 KINGS 19:20-21 - 20**He left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, “Please let me kiss my father and my mother, then I will follow you.” And he said to him, “Go back again, for what have I done to you?” **21**So he returned from following him, and took the pair of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the implements of the oxen, and gave *it* to the people and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah and ministered to him.

**GENESIS 12:1**Now the Lord said to Abram, “[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GENESIS+12%3A1&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-300a)]Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you;

**LUKE 18:22 - 22**When Jesus heard *this*, He said to him, “One thing you still lack; sell all that you possess and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

**MATTHEW 6:19-21 - 19**“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. **20**But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; **21**for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 -** Therefore if anyone is in Christ, [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+CORINTHIANS+5%3A17&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-28895a)]*he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

**MARK 10:29-30 - 29**Jesus said, “Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel’s sake, **30**[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MARK+10%3A29-30&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24619a)]but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MARK+10%3A29-30&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24619b)]the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life.

**LUKE 14:18-20 - 18**But they all alike began to make excuses. The first one said to him, ‘I have bought a [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=LUKE+14%3A18-20&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-25572a)]piece of land and I need to go out and look at it; [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=LUKE+14%3A18-20&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-25572b)]please consider me excused.’ **19**Another one said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=LUKE+14%3A18-20&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-25573c)]please consider me excused.’ **20**Another one said, ‘I have married a wife, and for that reason I cannot come.’

**MATTHEW 4:20 -** Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

**HEBREWS 11:6 -** And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*…

**MATTHEW 16:24 -** Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.

**MARK 4:40 -** And He said to them, “Why are you [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MARK+4%3A40&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24364a)]afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

**2 TIMOTHY 1:7 -** For God has not given us a spirit of [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+TIMOTHY+1%3A7&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-29817a)]timidity, but of power and love and [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+TIMOTHY+1%3A7&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-29817b)]discipline.

**PSALM 56:3-4 -** [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PSALM+56%3A3-4&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-14759a)]When I am afraid, [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PSALM+56%3A3-4&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-14759b)]I will put my trust in You. **4**In God, whose word I praise, In God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid. What can *mere* [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PSALM+56%3A3-4&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-14760c)]man do to me?

**1 JOHN 4:18 -** There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+JOHN+4%3A18&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-30622a)]involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

**Study Questions**

1. What did Peter have to leave behind to answer Christ's call?

2. What do you need to leave behind to move forward in your walk with Christ?

3. Who do you listen to when you need advice?

4. Who shouldn't you listen to that takes your focus off the Lord?

5. What motivated you to become a committed follower of Christ?

6. When have you faced choices related to valuing the eternal over the temporal?

7. Tell of a time where you dropped your proverbial net to follow Christ, and how have you been blessed because of it?

8. Where is God calling you too now? And what are your next steps?