



*... Follow Me!*

It's June! As we embark on our summer journeys and plan our vacations, I continue to ponder the invitation of Jesus to follow in His footsteps: "Follow Me" (John 21:22). This passage provides insight into our spiritual journey and resonates with the experiences many of us are facing in our lives today.

The story begins with a tranquil sea, skilled fishermen, and a familiar attempt to find sustenance through their own efforts. Yet, as we unpack this narrative, we see a poignant reminder of the dangers of reverting to old ways, especially when faced with uncertainty. Peter and his companions turned back to fishing, grappling with confusion after having shared in the miraculous life and teachings of Jesus.

Our spiritual journeys often mirror this experience. How easy it is to revert to our familiar routines when life becomes challenging! However, as Peter learned, true fulfillment comes not from our own labor but from our faithful response to Jesus' call. This month, let us embrace the summer season as a time of renewal and growth that God offers us. Just as the season shifted from spring to summer, filled with promise and new life, we are called to leave behind our old patterns and embrace a new season of faith. Jesus invites us to be "fishers of people," calling us to live transformed by His love and purpose. Let us not settle for our former ways; instead, let's actively pursue the abundant life He has prepared for us.

Like the disciples fishing all night with no catch, our efforts without Jesus can lead to disappointment. In moments of struggle, let us turn to Him, listen for His guiding voice, and cast our nets where He directs us. When we obey His commands, we can expect to see the fruit of His abundance in our lives.

There is no shame in our struggles; we all fall short. Jesus met Peter in his failure, offering grace, nourishment, and fellowship. In our moments of defeat, may we remember that Christ meets us in the messy, broken places. He invites us into restoration and purpose, reaffirming that our failures do not define us but rather reveal His grace.

Jesus' question to Peter, "Do you love me?" resonates deeply with us. Our love for Him must undergird everything we do. Following Jesus is about becoming individuals who reflect His love—shepherds caring for one another. Every day is a new opportunity to respond to Jesus' call to "Follow Me." This journey of faith is continuous, sometimes fraught with trials but also filled with unimaginable joy. Let us be assured that we walk not alone; Jesus is with us, guiding, restoring, and sending us forth. Let's remember that we are called not only to live for ourselves but to leave behind old habits and follow Christ closely. In our quiet moments and our loudest struggles, His voice beckons us: "Come, follow me."

This summer, I encourage you to listen intently for Jesus' invitation in your life. Where is He leading you to follow more closely? What habits do you need to let go of? How can you demonstrate His love to those around you? May we move forward together with renewed hearts and unwavering love.

Happy Summer!

Pastor Owar

