

Getting Started

Introduction

Jesus didn't start his ministry in a loud, boisterous, or showy way. Instead, he chose to meet people where they were at, on their level, with one goal in mind. He launched his ministry with two humble and simple words: Follow me.

People did just that. When Jesus called his disciples, they dropped everything, on the spot, and accepted their calling.

Mathew 4:12-25 shows us **who Jesus is, what he calls us to do, and who he uses** to expand his kingdom.

Jesus is still calling us today, just as he did then, to make the life changing decision to **follow him**.

Jesus moves to Capernaum to bring a great light into the darkness.

Veres 12-17

Jesus does this to fulfill the prophecy delivered through Isaiah stating:

15 "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, along the sea road, beyond the Jordan, **Galilee of the Gentiles.**"

After a war with the Assyrians, A large group of gentiles moved in.

16 "The people who live in darkness have seen a great light, and for those living in the shadowland of death, light has dawned."

It's a place where God was not worshipped by many of the residents

Capernaum was a morally destitute, politically and culturally mixed, and its people were living in the darkness created by their sin and unbelief.

Here comes Jesus, as the light of the world (John 8:12), to call those out of the darkness (of sin) and into the light. (1 Peter 2:9)

Application

It's not hard to draw some parallels between what is going on in Capernaum and what is going on in the world now.

Where do we see places of darkness in our daily life that could use some of God's light shined on it?

Jesus says in Matthew 5:14 That we (believers) are the light of the world.

It is our responsibility to take the truth (light) of God into the places of darkness just like Jesus did.

If not us, then who?

Do not wait until you feel that you are ready to answer your calling

Many Christians are staying stagnant because they feel they are not ready to step into their calling.

This could be for any number of reasons: fear, unworthiness, self-doubt, unbelief

IF GOD CALLS YOU TO SOMETHING, YOU ARE ALREADY READY!

Who does Jesus call to follow him? Verses 18-22

Ordinary people just like you and me

People with family obligations of all kinds, work obligations,
people struggling to find that work life balance.

The first disciples were just that.

Simon Peter, his brother Andrew, and the brothers of Zebedee
James and John.

These guys were not religious theologians.

They were blue collar workers putting in long hours everyday
hoping to bring in enough money to feed their families and pay their
taxes.

Who can relate to that?

When Jesus came and said “follow me” they didn’t hesitate or come up
with excuses why they couldn’t obey.

They immediately stopped what they were doing and obediently
started to follow Jesus.

They could have given all types of excuses to why they couldn’t go,
but they didn’t

Application

How many of us say no to God when he calls us because we feel
unworthy, unprepared, afraid, we don’t have enough time, or I
can’t afford it?

Jesus does not call those people who are prepared but instead he prepares the called.

God knows all the things going on in your life all the time.

He didn't miss anything or make a mistake when he calls us.

The real questions we have to ask ourselves are these:

Do we trust God enough to submit ourselves to his calling for us in his timing?

Are we willing to sacrifice something in our lives in order to put God first and follow him faithfully?

These men gave up what was safe, predictable, and comfortable in order to step out in faith and say yes to their calling.

Focus in on verse 19

Important notes here that are easy to overlook.

Jesus says "...I will make you fishers of people"

2 take aways here

1. Jesus is taking the responsibility for making the changes in his disciples.

The necessary transformation doesn't come from our own fleshly abilities but instead it comes from God.

2. Your calling will focus on serving people in some way.

Who are the people that are in your sphere of influence that you can serve?

What he calls us to do verses 23-25

Teach, Preach, and Heal

Teach

Jesus didn't just go to the synagogues to teach he went to where the people were.

The people that needed to hear it the most were likely not going to synagogue

Preach

Jesus never missed an opportunity to tell people about God.

He was intentional about spreading the word

Heal

Jesus focused on healing people both of their physical ailments and of their spiritual sickness of sin

Application

It is not enough for us to teach people about Jesus on Sunday

We need to be willing to take his word outside of these walls to the people who don't want to come to church.

Be looking for opportunities to share Jesus with the people that you come into contact with.

Tell your neighbors, coworkers, classmates, the guy at the pump next to you, the lady standing in line behind

you in the grocery store, even the cop that pulled you over for speeding because you are late for church.

1Peter 3:15-16

“...Honor the Messiah as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. ¹⁶ However, do this with gentleness and respect...”

This is directed to all Christians.

Verse 16 tells us how we are supposed to share

We are not supposed to beat people up or be aggressive.

We share in love and leave the results to God

How do we heal people.

We can pray **with** them

Right there before you part ways

It's not enough to say I'll pray for you. Be intentional

When someone comes to you with a problem

Make them the focus of your attention

Put down your cell phone

Make eye contact

Participate in the conversation

They should feel encouraged, heard, and come away in a better place than when they first approached you.

Conclusion

1. From the beginning Jesus proved, with his actions, that he is the light of the world by taking the truth into the dark places of the world.
2. It's up to us now to take the truth of Gods word into the dark places just like Jesus did.
3. We all have a calling. We may not feel ready for what we are called to do but if we are truly being called, God will prepare us.
4. Don't let fear and excuses keep you from fulfilling your calling. Jesus knows who you are and all of your shortcomings better than you do.
5. Jesus takes responsibility for changing us. "I will make you fishers of men"
6. A calling will be people centered.
7. Be willing to talk about Jesus everywhere you go. Be intentional by looking for opportunities to share the gospel.
8. Don't miss an opportunity to pray **with** someone.