

Sermon: Follow Me

Text: Matthew 14:22-36

Discussion Questions:

The very last words that Jesus spoke to His disciples prior to returning to heaven are recorded in **Matthew 28:19-20**:

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

We now call these words the “Great Commission”—and they can be summed up in four simple words:

Go and make disciples.

An obvious and essential question must be asked when thinking about this—

- What is a disciple?

Take some time as a group (or in your personal study) to consider and discuss this question.

- How would you answer this question in one sentence?
- What are the key or essential components of being a disciple?
- How do you think the “average Christian” would answer this question?

If you were to sit in a church membership class today, and the question was posed to the group: How many of you would call yourself a Christian? What do you think the response would be? What would your response be?

What if a follow-up question was asked: How many of you would consider yourself to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? What do you think the response would be?

- I’m guessing most of you would imagine a much greater hesitancy in the crowd. The same is probably true for you right now. How would you respond?
 - Why do you think that is?
 - How much of this hesitancy can be attributed to a general lack of understanding as to what it means to be a disciple?
 - How much of this hesitancy can be attributed to a lack of living up to the Biblical standards of discipleship?
 - How do we reconcile the fact that the NUMBER ONE job description of Christians is to go and make disciples—and yet most Christians probably don’t even see themselves as BEING one? How do you think this impacts our willingness to actually GO and make disciples of others?
 - What do you think the church (not just King Street—but ALL churches) should be doing to address this issue?

Examination:

- Read **John 1:35-51**:
 - This passage opens up with Andrew (and most likely the Apostle John) seeing Jesus pass by—and ultimately deciding to follow Jesus. According to verse 35, what were Andrew and John doing prior to seeing Jesus?
 - John the Baptist proclaims that Jesus is “the Lamb of God.” What impact do you think this declaration had on Andrew and John—and what action did these two men take as a result of hearing this?
 - What does it mean for Andrew and John to refer to Jesus as “Rabbi”? How important of a title was this? Is this the same thing as simply calling Jesus a “Pastor” a “Leader”?
 - The very first thing that Andrew did was to “go.” He went and found his brother Simon. Why did he do this—what was Andrew’s motivation?
 - What were the first two words that Jesus spoke to Philip? (v. 43) What do you think Jesus meant by these words?
 - The very first thing that Philip did was to “go.” He went and found his friend Nathanael. Why did he do this—what was Philip’s motivation?
 - What does Nathanael call Jesus, and why?

- Read **Luke 5:1-11**:
 - We have learned from John 1 that Simon Peter had most likely already met Jesus. This account in Luke 5 is describing a later event (in a completely different place). Does knowing this change in any way how you read Luke 5? Do you think this explains why Simon Peter immediately refers to Jesus as “Master”?
 - After seeing the miracle of the abundant catch of fish, Simon Peter fell at Jesus’ knees (right there in the boat!), admits his own sinfulness, and calls Jesus “Lord!” How might this explain Peter’s decision in verse 11 to “pull his boat up on shore, leave everything, and follow Jesus”?

- Read **Matthew 14:22-36**:
 - Do you think it was a coincidence that the disciples encounter a fierce storm on the Sea of Galilee—at a time that Jesus WASN’T with them in the boat?
 - One of the most amazing accounts of faith in the entire Bible is found right here—when Peter asks Jesus if it’s OK for him to get out of the boat, walk on the water, and come to Jesus. What do you think motivated Peter to do this?
 - How does this account shatter the notion that being a disciple of Jesus involves simply knowing more ABOUT Him? Peter clearly isn’t content with learning that Jesus is capable of walking on water. He wants far more than that! Peter wants to be LIKE Jesus—to DO the very things that Jesus does!
 - Apply this to your own life. How easy is it for you to reduce discipleship to knowing more about Jesus? What did Jesus do that He is calling YOU to do?
 - How often to people read this story with amazement—but never asking what God is calling US to do...or considering what it means for US to follow Christ?

Application:

Take some time this week to think about discipleship in an entirely new way. What would it take for you to confidently put your hand up when asked the question: Are you a disciple of Jesus?