

Following Jesus

I. Step back in time 2000 years

A. You're not in church but at a synagogue

i. It's not me teaching but Jesus

ii. Lk 13:10-17:

Luk 13:10 And He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath.

Luk 13:11 And there was a woman who for eighteen years had had a sickness caused by a spirit; and she was bent double, and could not straighten up at all.

Luk 13:12 When Jesus saw her, He called her over and said to her, "**Woman, you are freed from your sickness.**"

Luk 13:13 And He laid His hands on her; and immediately she was made erect again and *began* glorifying God.

Luk 13:14 But the synagogue official, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, *began* saying to the crowd in response, "There are six days in which work should be done; so come during them and get healed, and not on the Sabbath day."

Luk 13:15 But the Lord answered him and said, "**You hypocrites, does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the stall and lead him away to water *him?***"

Luk 13:16 "**And this woman, a daughter of Abraham as she is, whom Satan has bound for eighteen long years, should she not have been released from this bond on the Sabbath day?**"

Luk 13:17 As He said this, all His opponents were being humiliated; and the entire crowd was rejoicing over all the glorious things being done by Him.

- a) Off to the side you recognize a woman, bent double, bound by a spirit unable to straighten. You know she's been that way for eighteen years.
- b) Jesus catches sight of her, pauses in his teaching
- c) He calls her to Himself and says, "Woman, you are freed from your sickness."
- d) He touches her and she immediately straightens up, shock and then joy all over her face; she begins glorifying God for all she's worth.
- e) Just then, the head of the synagogue pushes himself forward. You can tell he's angry. "There are six days in which work should be done," he bellows at us all, "so come during them and get healed—and not on the Sabbath day."
- f) Whispers and muttering breaks out all around you, when all of a sudden, Jesus says loud and clear, "You hypocrites, does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the stall and lead him away to water him? And this woman, a daughter of Abraham as she is, whom Satan has bound for eighteen long years, should she not have been released from this bond on the Sabbath day?"
- g) The official and elders look stung, but everyone else in the crowd rejoices over all the glorious things being done by Jesus.
- h) Before things can get worse, Jesus wisely takes His leave. Bunches of people—including the woman—follow Him out into the warm sunshine.
- i) You're amazed at His teaching and at this supernatural power that surrounds Him.
- j) But He's leaving, almost out of sight.

B. If you really had been there, what would you have done?

- i. Would you turn to those around you and talk about your amazement, then eventually gather your things and head to lunch?
- ii. Or would you jump up and push your way out through the crowd after Jesus?
- iii. What would you have done had you seen and heard Jesus yourself?

C. If you had gone with the crowd around Jesus, and walked with them through the town

- i. He slowly makes His way to the edge of town; it's clear He won't be staying the night
- ii. He turns and calls the crowd to Himself; suddenly everyone is quiet.
- iii. He says, "***If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? For what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.***" (Mark 8:34-38)
- iv. And then He turns and starts on His way to the next village.
- v. A few dozen people go on with him; the rest watch Him go, then slowly in ones and twos return to their homes.

D. Had you been there, what would you have done?

- i. Would your mind have been filled with the wonders of Jesus' teachings and deeds, or would it have slowly clouded over with a list of all you had to do the next day?
- ii. Would you have gone on a little farther with them, then eventually turned back toward home? Would you keep telling yourself what a great teacher Jesus was and look forward to the day of His return—if He ever came back to your town—and hope to learn more from Him when you had the chance?
- iii. Or would you have realized how great an opportunity stood before you and left everything behind to travel with Him?

E. What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, to follow Him?

II. What is Discipleship?

A. Student

- i. Greek meaning: A learner, a pupil
- ii. Biblical usage: Much more
 - a) Mat 11:28-30: "***Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.***"

B. Following

- i. Jesus called people to "follow" Him (12 times)

- a) Matt 4:19: **And He *said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."** (Mk 1:17)
- b) Matt 8:22: But Jesus *said to him, "Follow Me, and allow the dead to bury their own dead." (Lk 9:59-60)
- c) Matt 9:9: As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man called Matthew, sitting in the tax collector's booth; and He *said to him, "Follow Me!" And he got up and followed Him. (Mk 2:14; Lk 5:27)
- d) Mat 19:21: Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be complete, go *and* sell your possessions and give to *the* poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." (Mk 10:21; Lk 18:22)
- e) Joh 1:43: The next day He purposed to go into Galilee, and He *found Philip. And Jesus *said to him, "Follow Me."
- f) Joh 21:19,22: Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He *said to him, "Follow Me!"

ii. How?

a) Accompany

- Jn 1:38: James and John follow Jesus into Jerusalem
- Lk 7:9: A crowd follows Jesus
- Lk 5:1-11: Peter, Andrew, James and John leave everything and follow after Jesus
- Lk 5:27-28: Levi (Matthew) leaves everything to go after Jesus

b) Copy Someone's Example/Obey their Instructions (Recipes)

- Ex 16:4: God tests the people to see if they will Follow His instructions
- Ex 23:2: We must not Follow masses into doing evil
- Deut 13:4: Follow God by Obeying His commandments
- Ps 119:33: Follow decrees and keep them to the end
- 1Cor 11:1: Follow Paul's example
- 1Pe 2:21: Follow Jesus' example

iii. Who?

a) Jesus

- Matt 4:19: And He *said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Mk 1:17)
- 1Pe 2:21: For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps.

b) Apostles

- 1Co 4:14-17: I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as

my beloved children. For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ, yet *you would not have* many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. Therefore I exhort you, be imitators of me. For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church.

- 1Cor 11:1: ***Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.***
- Php 3:17: Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.
- 2Th 3:7-9: For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we *kept* working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you; not because we do not have the right *to this*, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would follow our example.

c) Leaders/Examples

- Eph 4:11-16: ***And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.*** As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.
- Php 3:17: ***Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.***
- 1Ti 4:11-12: Prescribe and teach these things. Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but *rather* in speech, conduct, love, faith *and* purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.
- Titus 2:7-8: in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, *with* purity in doctrine, dignified, sound *in* speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.
- 1Pe 5:1-6: Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as *your* fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of* God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. You younger men, likewise, be subject to *your* elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another,

for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,

d) Layers of Example

- Jesus laid down the pattern for the Apostles
- The apostles followed that pattern and trained others to walk according to that same pattern
- Those church leaders and other godly men and women serve as examples for us to follow, to imitate
- In the end, it is one pattern that we are to be following—regardless of whom we've fixed our eyes of flesh upon—and that is the pattern that is Jesus Christ.
- We are to follow Jesus and the example of His apostles, but He has also granted us—gifts from God—flesh-and-blood models around us that we can pattern our lives after, and we would do well to imitate them
 - Heb 6:11-12: ***And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.***
 - Heb 13:7-17: ***Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*** Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, through which those who were so occupied were not benefited. We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest *as an offering* for sin, are burned outside the camp. Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate. So, let us go out to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach. For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking *the city* which is to come. Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. ***Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.***

iv. Why?

- a) Eph 4:11-16: And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all

aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

b) Being With/See the Example/Take Part in Ministry

- To Be Equipped for Ministry
 - Mk 3:14-15: Be with—resulting in being sent out: ***And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out to preach, and to have authority to cast out the demons.***
 - Lk 9:1-10: To become qualified to be sent out
 - Mk 2:15-17: Be ***included in ministry opportunities***
 - Php 2:19-22: ***To serve, and through serving, to be trained to lead*** (Phm 1:10-13)
 - 2Ti 4:9-11: To serve alongside a leader
 - Mt 15:32: Have part in feeding thousands
- To See His example in All Situations
 - Jn 13:13-16: See the Example: ***"If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."***
 - Mk 14:33: ***To see all sides of our teacher***
 - Lk 14: ***To see how He works in all kinds of circumstances***
 - Lk 7:36-50: To watch His example in unusual situations
 - Lk 8:1-4: To see and learn how He works
- For Special and Personal, Tailor-made Instruction
 - Mt 17:1-8: ***Chosen to see things others don't*** (Lk 8:51-56)
 - Mk 10:32-34: ***To receive privileged information***
 - Lk 9:18-28: ***For special, private lessons***
 - Act 8:31: ***To be guided and taught by Him***
 - Lk 5:1: To hear His teachings
- To be recognized as one of His Disciples
 - Lk 22:59: ***To be recognized as one who was with Him*** (Jn 18:26; Acts 4:13)
 - Act 10:38-41: To become a witness of and for Him (Act 13:30-31; 2Pe 1:18; 1Jn 1:1-7)

- Act 11:26: To learn from him and be identified as one of His
 - To Enjoy His Fellowship—now and forever
 - Lk 24:29-30: **To enjoy His fellowship** (Rev 3:20-21)
 - Jn 14: To enjoy His presence and learn from Him
 - Rev 20:6: To be with Him forever
 - Jn 8:29: **To learn what pleases Him, so He will always be with us**
 - Jn 1:37-39: To get to know Him
 - Other Reasons:
 - Jn 11:16: **To come to know why He's worth dying for, and become willing to die for Him**
 - Mk 5:18-20: Excluded in order to prepare the way (Mk 7:31)
 - Lk 23:32-43: To be saved and assured of salvation
 - Rev 17:14: To participate in His triumph
- b) The End Goal of Discipleship: Conformation to the Likeness of Christ
- Rom 8:29: **For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;**
 - Rom 12:1-2: Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
 - 1Cor 15:48-49: As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.
 - 2Cor 3:18: But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.
 - Eph 4:11-13: And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.
 - **Become Like our Teacher**
 - Mt 10:24-25: **“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master. It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign the members of his household!”**

- Lk 6:40: A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher.
- Jn 13:13-16: "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor *is* one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."
- Jn 15:15-20: "No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. 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. This I command you, that you love one another. If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before *it hated* you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also."
- **Become Like those we spend time with**
 - Prv 13:20: ***He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will suffer harm.***
 - Prv 28:7: He who keeps the law is a discerning son, But he who is a companion of gluttons humiliates his father.
 - 1Cor 15:33: ***Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."***

II. How do we Follow Jesus Today?

A. Spend Time with Him Through the Word

- Jn 5:39: ***You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me.***
- The Hand Illustration

B. Obey the Word

- Jn 14:21-23: ***"He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."*** Judas (not Iscariot) *said to Him, "Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?" Jesus answered and said to him, ***"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him."***
- Jn 15:14-15: "You are My friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you."

C. By Following Example of Godly Leaders

- i. 1Cor 4:15-17: For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ, yet you would not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. Therefore I exhort you, be imitators of me. For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church.
- ii. 1Cor 11:1: Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.
- iii. Php 3:17: Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.
- iv. 2Th 3:7-9: For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we *kept* working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you; not because we do not have the right *to this*, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would follow our example.
- v. 1Ti 4:11-12: Prescribe and teach these things. Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but *rather* in speech, conduct, love, faith *and* purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.
- vi. Titus 1:6-9: For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.
- vii. Titus 2:7-8: in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, *with* purity in doctrine, dignified, sound *in* speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.
- viii. Heb 6:11-12: And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.
- ix. Heb 13:7-17: Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith. Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, through which those who were so occupied were not benefited. We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest *as an offering* for sin, are burned outside the camp. Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate. So, let us go out to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach. For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking *the city* which is to come. Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Obey your leaders and submit *to them*, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.
- x. 1Pe 5:1-6: Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as *your* fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but

voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. You younger men, likewise, be subject to *your* elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,

- xi. Beware: Mt 23:1-3: ***Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to His disciples, saying: "The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses; therefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say things and do not do them."***

III. The Cost of Following

A. Challenge to "give up" life

- i. Mark 8:34-38: And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, "***If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? For what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.***"

B. Return with me to our town 2000 years ago

- i. Jesus Based in Capernaum, but not there for long
- a) Mark 1:35-38: In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left *the house*, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there. Simon and his companions searched for Him; they found Him, and *said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You." He *said to them, "Let us go somewhere else to the towns nearby, so that I may preach there also; for that is what I came for."
- ii. At that time, those who wanted to know more had to choose how much of their lives to give up in order to travel and learn from Him
- a) Give up a few hours/weekends when He's in town
- Learn a little—more than enough to be saved
 - Slow growth
 - Some understanding
 - Maybe no serving
- b) Give up a week/month or two, travel a little with Him (farmer, seasonal business)
- Learn more
 - See Jesus live out teachings
 - Better understanding

- Grow more
 - Serve a bit here and there
- c) Give up work and life, follow everywhere, all the time
- Learn Most
 - Gain clearest, fullest understanding
 - Best equipped to advance the gospel and train new believers
 - Most likely stay in full-time service; hard to go back to old life
- iii. How closely would you following? How closely are you following?
- a) How much time do you spend “walking” with Jesus through the pages of Scripture, seeing how He carries Himself, watching all He does, hearing all He says?
- b) Do you talk to Him (Prayer) more than you listen to Him (Word)?
- c) Do you put into practice what you see Him doing, talk about what you hear Him talk about?
- d) The more we want to know Jesus, the more we have to give up other things in order to spend time with Him through His Word.
- e) The more we spend time with Him through the Word, the more we become like Him
- Proverbs 13:20: He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will suffer harm.
- iv. Next Sunday Begin Timothy Training
- a) 9:30 am Sunday School class in Sanctuary
- b) What we will do:
- Learning tools and illustrations to help others grow as disciples—it might help us in our growth as well
 - Reading our Bibles and sharing what we learn
 - Memorizing verses
 - Doing it together
- c) What it will cost you:
- \$2.50 for workbooks
 - 1-2 hours a week of preparation outside of class
- d) What you will gain:
- Growth in your understanding of God and ability to know Him
 - Growth in your ability to help others know God and grow in their relationship with Him

IV. The Result of Following: Fishers of Men

A. Jesus Came (In His Own Words)

- i. Mt 5:17 To Fulfill the law
- ii. Mt 9:13 To call sinners (Mk 2:17; Lk 5:32: to repentance)
- iii. Mt 10:34-39 To divide families (Lk 12:49-52)
- iv. Mt 18:11 To save that which was lost (Lk 19:10)
- v. Mt 20:28 To serve & give His life as a ransom for many (Mk 10:45)
- vi. Mk 1:38 To preach (Lk 4:42-43)
- vii. Lk 4:18-19 To preach the gospel to the poor, proclaim release to captives & recovery of sight to the blind, set free the downtrodden & proclaim the year of the Lord's favor
- viii. Lk 9:56 Not to destroy men's lives, but to save them
- ix. Jn 3:14-18 To save the world, granting men eternal life, not to condemn men
- x. Jn 6:38-40 To do the Father's will—to raise all who believe in Him to eternal life
- xi. Jn 6:51 As bread, to give life to the world
- xii. Jn 9:39-41 To judge the world (Jn 15:22)
- xiii. Jn 10:10 To bring life abundant
- xiv. Jn 12:27 To die for our sins on the cross
- xv. Jn 12:46 As light to deliver those who believe in Him from darkness
- xvi. Jn 12:47 Not to judge the world, but to save it
- xvii. Jn 18:37 To bear witness to the truth; to be king of the Jews

B. What Kind of Fishers

- i. Two Kinds:
 - a) American Understanding: Sport fishing
 - b) Disciples' Understanding: Commercial fishing
- ii. Sport fishing vs. Commercial fishing
 - a) Sport
 - Personal witnessing/evangelism
 - Lead one or two people to Christ at a time
 - May have long dry spells
 - May seldom go fishing
 - 1Ptr 3:15-16: but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is

in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.

b) Commercial

- Group Effort (at least pairs)
 - Mk 6:7: And He *summoned the twelve and began to send them out in pairs, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits;
 - Lk 10:1: Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come. And He was saying to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. "Go; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no money belt, no bag, no shoes; and greet no one on the way. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace *be* to this house.' If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Stay in that house, eating and drinking what they give you; for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not keep moving from house to house. Whatever city you enter and they receive you, eat what is set before you; and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'"
 - Act 2:14 But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: "Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words."
- Preach to Crowds
 - Lk 5:1-3: Now it happened that while the crowd was pressing around Him and listening to the word of God, He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret; and He saw two boats lying at the edge of the lake; but the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. And He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little way from the land. And He sat down and *began* teaching the people from the boat.
 - Mt 5:1-2: When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. He opened His mouth and *began* to teach them, saying,
 - Few lead many to Christ at one event
 - May have dry spells, but keep going
 - Livelihood: Do it to survive; often done; full-time job
 - Mark 3:14-15: And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He *could* send them out to preach, and to have authority to cast out the demons.

iii. Jesus' Training Program

a) Set Example

- Public Proclamation

- Mk 1:38: He *said to them, "Let us go somewhere else to the towns nearby, so that I may preach there also; for that is what I came for."
 - Also witnessed one to one
 - Nicodemus (Jn 3)
 - Woman at the well (Jn 4)
 - Compelled to preach
 - Mt 9:36-38: Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. Then He *said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."
- b) Trained Disciples to do likewise
- Sent Twelve to preach (Mt 10)
 - Sent 70 to preach (Lk 10)
- c) Disciples Carried on Jesus' Mission
- Peter & John (Acts 2:14-41 & 3:11-4:4)
 - Paul
 - Acts 17:17: So he was reasoning in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing *Gentiles*, and in the market place every day with those who happened to be present.
- iv. Only for Apostles?
- Commanded to Disciple NATIONS, teaching ALL Jesus had commanded them
 - Mt 28:19-20: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
 - Depends on Preaching to ALL Creation, witnessing to ALL nations
 - Mk 16:15: And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.
 - Acts 1:8: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

V. Conclusion

A. Reward for Following Jesus

- i. Mt 19:27-29: ***Then Peter said to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?" And Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones,***

judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life."

B. (Crowd Illustration) Where are you in the Crowd? Are you willing to move closer to Jesus?

i. Inner circle?

- a) Abandoned everything to follow Jesus, constantly serving with Him?
- b) Leave Gospel-rich America to go to Gospel-poor country to testify about Jesus

ii. Somewhere in the Middle?

- a) Get more into Word (Hand of Word Illustration)
- b) Witness to friends, family, neighbors, coworkers, classmates—strangers!
- c) Leave Gospel-rich America to go to Gospel-poor country to testify about Jesus

iii. Outer Edge?

- a) Curious, but haven't yet believed?
- b) What's holding you back?
- c) Jesus claimed to be and proved Himself to be the Son of God and savior of Man
- d) Because we have chosen to live for ourselves rather than honor God, we are on our way to being cut off from Him and the life that is in Him forever, tormented eternally for our rebelliousness
- e) God sent Jesus His Son to pay the penalty for our stubbornness and bring us back to God
- f) Take that first step into the crowd by believing that Jesus is God's Son, and trusting that His death had cleansed you from your sin and His resurrection has brought you into the presence and family of God
- g) (Invite forward to talk with me)