

Follow Me

Intro

- 3rd week of our series- The Great Invite
- Two weeks ago= The Heavens are Opened
 - Learned that salvation is an ongoing process
 - Saying yes to Jesus is the 1st step in the process
 - Baptism marks that decision
 - Living a holy life is the key salvation
- Last Week= Come and See
 - Most of us came to Jesus through the invite of another
 - We all came to Jesus in a different way
 - All evangelist and we need to share our story and invite others to 'come and see'
- This Week= Follow Me

Matthew 4:12-23 ESV

12 Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. 13 And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 15 "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— 16 the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned." 17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." 18 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. 19 And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 21 And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. 23 And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

Calling

- I. Contradicting account from John 1 (last week)
 - A. John 1
 1. John the Baptist steers two of his disciples to Jesus
 2. One of them is Andrew, Simon Peter's brother
 3. Andrew is so excited after following Jesus that he invites his brother to 'Come and See'
 4. Simon comes and Jesus gives him a new name 'Peter'
 - B. Matthew 4
 1. Jesus walking along the shore sees Simon and Andrew fishing

2. Says 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men'
3. Immediately left their nets and followed him
4. Walks a little further and sees two more brothers, James and John
5. Scene is repeated

II. Reconciling the differences

A. The Bible seems to have many instances like this, where it seems to contradict itself

B. Things to remember

1. Different people telling the same story
 - See and hear different things
 - (1) Middle School conflict
 - Even when see and hear the same things interpret it differently
 - (1) Old Telephone game
 - *Cold Case Christianity*, J. Warner Wallace, Homicide Detective, God's Not Dead 2
 - (1) Reliable Eyewitnesses Never Agree
 - (2) Reliable Eyewitnesses Raise Questions
 - (3) Reliable Eyewitnesses Are Sometimes Incorrect
 - (a) In no way am I saying that the Bible is incorrect
 - (4) Unintentional eyewitness support
2. Tend to remember the most relevant to us/them
 - Again Cold Case Christianity
3. Years before the accounts were written down
 - Journaling

C. I contend that they are not contradictory just different parts/phases of the same story

1. Events of Jesus' life in the gospels is not a day by day account
 - We tend to try to read it that way
2. Jesus was hanging out in Galilee for an extended period of time
3. Story in John 1 probably happened 1st
 - John the Baptist told Andrew
 - Andrew told Peter
4. Between fishing trips and over several days Andrew and Peter hung out and listened to Jesus
5. When Jesus saw that their hearts were ready and was about to move on to his next phase of his ministry he issued the call in Matthew 4

III. Calling versus Following

A. John 1

1. Following Jesus
2. How we first come to Jesus
3. Story of someone inviting us

B. Matthew 4

1. Calling

2. Just as following Jesus is different for different people so is Jesus' Calling on our life
3. Peter, Andrew, James, John Dramatic answer
 - Jesus called
 - Immediately left their nets
 - Complete obedience
4. Missionaries
 - Dorothy, who was Zimbabwean national a month ago
 - Church Breakfast- Walt and Charlotte Boyd
 - Jeff Iserve
 - Different from me
5. Us
 - Maybe dramatic
 - Maybe smaller
 - Acts of kindness and compassion
 - Bloom where planted
 - (1) Monica's shirt
 - (2) Mrs. Mott
6. Call to healing- For us all!
 - V. 23 And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.
 - Greek word used here for healing is therapeuó (ther-ap-yoo'-o)
 - (1) Means to serve, cure
 - (2) Root of English word therapy
 - (3) Translated healing here
 - (4) Can be serving, or attending the needs of others
 - Jesus' healing ministry
 - (1) Living in a land of deep darkness
 - (2) Second class citizens in Judea
 - (3) Didn't need teacher, preacher, miracle worker?
 - (4) Needed someone to attend their needs
 - (5) Someone to listen and respond to their pain, loss, suffering
 - (6) Healing that came from listening and caring
 - (7) Needed therapy
 - (8) What Jesus offered them
 - (9) Sometimes we are called to be healers in this way
 - (a) Monica

IV. Questions to answer

A. Where do you hear God calling you to join Jesus?

1. Ruth 1:16 But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.

- Mother-in-law Naomi a Jewish woman
- Moabite, Descendant of Abraham's nephew Lot (Gen.19)
- Found in the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew ch. 1
- Our answer to God/Jesus/Holy Spirit 'For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people'

B. Where are you being planted?

1. 1 Corinthians 7:20-24 20 Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called. 21 Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.) 22 For he who was called in the Lord as a bondservant is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a bondservant of Christ. 23 You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men. 24 So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God.

- Sometimes Jesus calls us to 'go'
 - (1) Like the disciples
 - (2) Like Abraham
 - (3) And when he does we need to go
- Sometimes Jesus calls us to 'stay'
 - (1) Shared many times about me thinking I need to get out of Jackson County
 - (2) Called me to stay

C. What need in church, community, world breaks your heart?

1. James 2:15-16 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?

- So much going on in our community
- Many needs to be met
- This church has done that in the past
 - (1) Parsonage to house fire victims
 - (2) People calling up here
 - (3) Schools

D. How can you respond?

Closing

- I. Jesus offers salvation to ALL PEOPLE
 - A. No matter where they live
 - B. No matter what kind of life they have led
 - C. Came especially for those who struggle
 1. Least
 2. Last
 3. Lost

- D. Came for you and me
 - 1. Invites each one of us to join him in discipleship
 - 2. Invites us to join him in the work of transforming the world
- II. Answer the Call
 - A. Call to 'Follow Me'
 - B. Take that step to join the adventure
 - C. Serve the name of Jesus
 - D. How
 - 1. Community
 - a) Teaching
 - (1) Word of God
 - b) Proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ
 - c) Words and Actions
 - (1) Love
 - (2) Compassion
 - d) Attending to needs among God's people
- III. As we close
 - A. Write down, on index cards, commitment to follow Jesus this week
 - 1. Inviting a specific person to church
 - 2. Serving in the community
 - 3. Serving in the church
 - 4. Social Media
 - a) Sharing Facebook/Twitter posts
 - b) Steve Taylor's daily prayers
 - c) #followme4people