

Maple Springs Baptist Church

Series: Words to Live By

Week 6: The Call that Changes Everything

Some words change your day. Some words change your mood. Some words change your direction. But only a few words in history have the power to change your **entire life**. Jesus spoke many powerful statements, but none are more foundational, more identity-shaping, or more life-altering than these two words: **“Follow Me.”**

Not “admire Me.” Not “agree with Me.” Not “believe in Me from a distance.” Not “add Me to your already busy life.” But **“Follow Me.”** Two words that changed fishermen into apostles. Two words that turned sinners into saints. Two words that launched a movement that turned the world upside down. And today, Jesus speaks the same two words to you.

Matthew 4 places us on the shoreline of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus is beginning His public ministry. He is not recruiting religious elites, scholars, or influencers. He is calling fishermen—blue-collar, ordinary, overlooked men. **Matthew 4:18–22**. This is not a casual invitation. This is a **kingdom summons**.

WHAT DID JESUS ACTUALLY SAY?

- **“Follow Me” — Akoloutheō:** Means “to walk the same road,” “to attach yourself to a leader,” “to imitate a master.” Not a momentary decision—an ongoing lifestyle.
- **“I will send you out” — Poieō:** Means “I will form, shape, craft, create.” Jesus is not asking them to make themselves into anything. He is promising to do the forming.
- **“To Fish for People” — Halieis anthrōpōn:** A metaphor of mission: reaching people, rescuing people, drawing people into God’s kingdom.

Jesus’ call includes **invitation, formation, and mission**.

1 — THE CALL OF JESUS IS PERSONAL. **“Come, Follow Me.”** Jesus doesn’t say, “Follow a set of rules.” He doesn’t say, “Follow a religion.” He doesn’t say, “Follow your heart.” This is a **relationship**, not a ritual. A **journey**, not a job. A **calling**, not a career. **Jesus is not asking for your performance—He is asking for your presence.** Discipleship begins with proximity, not perfection. You don’t have to have it all together to follow Jesus—you just have to say yes.

2— THE CALL OF JESUS IS INTERRUPTING—“They were casting a net into the lake” When Jesus calls these men, they are in the middle of their normal routine—casting nets, mending nets, running a business. Jesus doesn’t wait for a convenient moment. **He interrupts their plans with a greater purpose. Jesus will interrupt your comfort to invite you into His calling.** Following Jesus will disrupt your schedule, your priorities, your preferences. **If Jesus never interrupts your life, you may not be following Him—you may be asking Him to follow you.**

3 — THE CALL OF JESUS IS TRANSFORMING **“I will send you out (make you)...”** Jesus doesn’t call the qualified—He qualifies the called. He doesn’t say, “Fix yourself first.” He says, “Walk with Me, and I will change you.”

Transformation Happens Through:

- **Presence** — walking with Jesus.
- **Process** — being shaped over time.
- **Purpose** — becoming who He designed you to be.

You don't transform yourself—Jesus does the transforming. **Spiritual growth is not self-improvement; it is Christ-formation.**

4— THE CALL OF JESUS IS MISSIONAL. “...to fish for people.” The moment you follow Jesus, you join His mission of: Reaching people, Loving people, Inviting people, Discipling people. Every follower of Jesus is a fisher of people. You don't need a title to reach people—you need a testimony. Your workplace, school, neighborhood, and family are your fishing waters. **Jesus doesn't just save you from something—He saves you for something.**

5 — THE CALL OF JESUS IS IMMEDIATE. “At once they left their nets ...” They didn't negotiate. They didn't delay. They didn't say, “Let me get my life together first.” They responded **immediately.**

- The longer you wait, the harder it becomes.
- Jesus is calling you today—not when life gets easier.
- **Delayed obedience is disobedience**

There is a difference between: **Fans & followers; Spectators & disciples; Observers & obeyers.** Fans admire Jesus from a distance. Followers walk with Him closely. Fans cheer for Jesus. Followers surrender to Jesus. Fans like Jesus. Followers obey Jesus. Jesus is not recruiting fans. He is calling followers.

JESUS IS STILL SAYING “FOLLOW ME”. He says it to the broken, & to the busy. He says it to the successful, & to the ashamed. He says it to the religious, & to the rebellious. He says it to **you.** Not “clean yourself up.” Not “figure it out.” Not “earn your way.” Just **“Follow Me.”**

Jesus is calling you:

- To follow Him for the first time
- To return to following Him
- To follow Him more closely
- To follow Him into mission
- To follow Him into surrender

Drop your nets. Take His hand. Follow Him.

WHAT DOES FOLLOWING JESUS LOOKS LIKE?

1. **Daily Surrender:** “Jesus, You lead. I follow.”
2. **Daily Scripture:** You can't follow a voice you don't listen to.
3. **Daily Obedience:** Small steps of obedience lead to big transformation.
4. **Daily Mission:** Look for people to love, serve, and reach.