

# "Believers to Disciples"

Sermon Title: "Following" Scripture: Matthew 4:18-22

(link to the sermon here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zvK5MjR15w>)

## Opening Discussion

1. What does it mean to "follow" someone in today's culture?
2. What are some of the biggest challenges to following Jesus in our daily lives?

## Exploring the Passage

Read Matthew 4:18-22

- What stands out to you in this passage?
- Why do you think Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John responded "immediately" to Jesus' call?
- What do you think they were leaving behind, both physically and spiritually?

## Key Themes & Discussion Questions

### 1. The Call to Follow

- Jesus' first invitation was simple: "Come, follow me." What does this tell us about discipleship?
- How does this contrast with how churches often separate "believers" and "disciples"?

### 2. Immediate vs. Lifelong Decision

- The disciples seemed to respond immediately, but do you think they had been preparing for this moment in their hearts?
- How does this idea relate to our own spiritual journey—both sudden moments of decision and gradual transformation?

### 3. What It Means to Be a Disciple

- Each Gospel presents a different emphasis on discipleship. Which of these resonates most with you?
  - **John:** Belief in Jesus as the Son of God
  - **Luke:** Compassion and care for the poor and sick

- **Mark:** Willingness to suffer for Christ
  - **Matthew:** Living by Jesus' teachings and doing God's will
- How do these different perspectives shape our understanding of following Jesus today?

#### 4. Daily Renewal of Discipleship

- What does it look like to daily follow Jesus?
- Think about your own faith journey—when was the last time you made a fresh commitment to follow Jesus?

#### 5. What Have You Left Behind?

- Jesus' disciples left behind their nets, boats, families, and careers. What things might we need to leave behind to follow Jesus more fully?
- Are there distractions, fears, or comforts that hold us back from deeper discipleship?

#### Closing questions:

- What practical steps can we take this week to follow Jesus more intentionally?
- Who in your life needs to hear about Jesus' invitation to follow Him?
- How can we support one another in our journey of discipleship?

### Help with January 19 Sermon

(send your thoughts to the questions below directly to Dan ([dcarlton@culpeperbaptist.org](mailto:dcarlton@culpeperbaptist.org)) and/or discuss as a group before we gather for worship)

What are the dominant voices or messages in today's culture that compete with Jesus' teachings?

How does culture define love, and how does that contrast with Jesus' definition in John 14:23?

How can we practically "hear" Jesus' words in a culture filled with noise and distractions?

What's **your story** that illustrate the contrast between Jesus' peace and worldly peace?