

intent • ship

Intentional Discipleship

THE LORD

Week 1

NOTES

WARM-UP

- Do you have an Instagram account? Who do you like to follow on it? Why?
- Would you rather do things immediately or deliberately? Why?
- How do you respond to delays? Recall an instance explaining this.

WORD

"16 Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. 17 And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." 18 And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

Mark 1:16-18

Simon and Andrew immediately accepted Jesus' invitation to follow Him, and they did so wholeheartedly. They immediately stopped what they were doing to follow Him. They very likely lacked all the answers to their queries and had no idea where they were heading, but they nevertheless chose to follow Jesus.

What it means to follow Jesus will be covered in this lesson, by examining the accounts of three men in Luke 9 who came close to following Jesus.

1. NO CONDITIONS

57As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." 58And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

Luke 9:57,58

When a potential disciple stated he would follow Him, Jesus issued a challenge. The guy was reminded by Jesus that following Him is neither simple, convenient, or comfortable. Like Simon and Andrew, following Jesus entails acting without constraints or preconceived ideas. It entails following Jesus willingly and courageously in the face of difficulties. What obstacles have you had to overcome as a Christian? Why do you still adhere to Him in spite of these difficulties?

2. NO DELAYS

"59To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." 60And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

Luke 9:59,60

Another guy answered to Jesus' command to follow Him by expressing a desire to carry out his cultural obligations. Jesus demands immediate compliance even though He also tells us to respect our parents. If we are to follow Jesus, we must move quickly and without justification. Jesus asks us to instantly follow Him, just as Simon and Andrew did. Why was Jesus' response appropriate even if it may have seemed unreasonable to some? Why should family, culture, and personal preferences be put aside in favor of Jesus' command?

3. NO DISTRACTIONS

61Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." 62Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Luke 9:61,62

Jesus remarked that following Him is an all-or-nothing proposition when a third potential disciple showed a willingness to do so but was only half-hearted in his commitment. Putting our hands to work and stopping to look back will cause us to stray from our course and fail in our mission. We must reject distractions and anything else that seeks to replace Jesus in our lives if we are to really follow Him. In order to follow Jesus, James and John left what (Mark 1:19,20)?

APPLICATION

- Are you a follower of Jesus? If not, what could be stopping you from following Him and what will you do about it?
- What did you leave behind to follow Jesus? What steps can you take today to follow Him closer?
- Whom can you encourage to follow Jesus? What can you do to make it easier for them to quickly and fully follow Him?

PRAYER

- Praise God for inviting us to follow Him. Ask God to help you follow Him wholeheartedly and obediently for the rest of your life.
- Pray that God would use your testimony and life to encourage others to follow Him.
- Ask God to give you opportunities to share the gospel with your family and friends this week as you pray for their salvation.



EVERY NATION

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