

Hunger & Thirst Devotions_ Pastor Denise #3

Hello everyone, I'm Pastor Denise Satrape and I am happy you could join us today, as we take a journey together as we grow in our hunger and thirst to know him. In

Matthew 6:33 Jesus said, seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. To seek first, the kingdom of God, means to make a priority decision to follow God and His ways. And to follow Him, may mean we have to forsake our old ways of doing things to experience a new way of living.

We see two brothers in Matthew 4:18 doing just that, when they heard Jesus call out to them.

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him.

As I consider this aspect of seeking first the kingdom, I can't help but think of the fishermen who were given an invitation to follow Jesus. When I looked up the Greek word "follow," I discovered it was an IMPERATIVE form of the word. Therefore, this was not a soft gentle request, but a strong admonishment with a sense of urgency and authority. It was not a "Hey do you all want to hang out together?" It was an invitation that required a purposeful decision which resulted in a life changing action.

Here are some of the meanings of the word follow:

- 1: to go, proceed, or come after
- 2: to engage in, as a calling or way of life:
- 3: to pursue
- 4: to follow directions
- 5: to accept as authority: to obey
- 6: to seek to attain
- 7: to imitate
- 8: to watch steadily and
- 9: to attend closely

They were given an invitation to choose, to engage in a way of life that was different than what they had been experiencing. This choice would require them to willingly pursue and follow after Jesus. In doing so, they would be accepting his authority in their life.

This act of following involved more than just an emotional response of their heart. It would require the engagement of their mind as well, as they committed to keeping their focus on him as they listened and attended to his direction.

It was a decision to forsake their own way of life and imitate the one they chose to follow. In making this decision they also chose to embrace who Jesus was and not just what He could provide.

The Apostle Paul encourages Timothy to be that steadfast follower when he said in

1 Timothy 6:11-12 - But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

In short, he is saying Timothy- FOLLOW- Follow Jesus, forsake all the ways that are not His ways, pursue righteousness and persevere through all the distractions and temptations and hold on to the eternal life that was given to you when you made a decision to follow Christ.

There is a call that is going forth in this hour, as never before; it's an invitation that brings a promise of fruitfulness but requires a commitment. Will you commit to follow and trust Him, and become all that you were destined to be? The decision is yours.

Heavenly Father, thank you for extending an invitation to follow you, forgive us when we treat it as a casual invitation that is fueled more by emotion instead of a purposeful act of our will. Holy Spirit, empower us to flee from those things that keep us from a life of knowing you and your ways. Anoint our eyes to follow you and your leadership. Anoint our ears to be responsive to your Word as we aim to imitate you as we seek first your kingdom and your righteousness, in Jesus Name Amen