



Dear Church,

Last Sunday, we looked at Jesus calling His disciples to follow Him. He asked them to put aside what was normal and secure to pursue a different idea of security and normal. These men were family men with strong hands, cut and calloused from a lifetime of pulling nets of fish into a boat. They were chosen by Jesus to change the world, one lesson at a time. Perhaps they had dreams unknown to us that they had to lay aside to seek something

unheard of, something better.

These were ordinary men on an ordinary day with regular families requiring them to do a mind-numbing, repetitious job day after day. No wonder they answered the call of a Man they considered different; His words did something to their hearts as He spoke the words of His Father to them. With His call, darkness was being displaced with light.

Like the first disciples, we are also being called by Jesus to follow Him. But it's more than just to follow, but to engage in the harvest. Submission and commitment is our answer to the call. To love God, follow Jesus and respond to the Spirit must become our new life. It fulfills our purpose.

Jesus calls us to follow Him and be fishers of men. This following is to know—intimately know—Him, to learn all about Him as He shows us the Father's love. Our Heavenly Father's love is expressed to us in grace, forgiveness and sacrifice, all testified by the Son and revealed to us by the Spirit. This is why we must stand firmly on the truth of the scripture below:

John 14:6

*Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

When we answer His call, we must agree with and become messengers of this one truth. What might this answer to His call look like? Look at Romans 10.

Romans 10:9-10

*<sup>9</sup>If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For it is with your heart that you*

*believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.*

This profession should change everything about us—what we think about God, our relationships, our words and our actions. If not, we must not agree with God, and therefore we call Him a liar and the truth is not in us.

Let's look at how we acknowledge the Spirit and how we yield to Him. Once again, this yielding is because of the call of Jesus.

Acts 2:38-39

*<sup>38</sup> Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."*

This act of repentance and baptism is the very beginning of our ministry and service to God. The leading of His Spirit requires communion with Him. This oneness with Him brings companionship, a mingling of ourselves. It is to put the world aside in order to live in the light. This causes others to become curious about what makes us different, and then we are His witness.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

*<sup>19</sup> Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; <sup>20</sup> you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.*

If we believe, we have the Holy Spirit indwelling in us at all times. Submitting to the Spirit means talking with Him, listening to Him, living for the Kingdom by His power!

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Call to action: Look up Acts 4:11-12, John 3:36 and John 10:9. What truth do these verses confirm? Now look at Titus 3:1-7. Who did God the Father pour out on believers through God the Son IN ORDER THAT we may have eternal life? Our next message will expound on this as we celebrate Pentecost!