

## Who Is This Man? Week 2

### A Call to Follow

#### Stand for the reading of God's Word and for prayer

*One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, [a] great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God. 2 He noticed two empty boats at the water's edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. 3 Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, [b] its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there.*

*4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish."*

*5 "Master," Simon replied, "we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, I'll let the nets down again." 6 And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! 7 A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.*

*8 When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, "Oh, Lord, please leave me—I'm such a sinful man." 9 For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. 10 His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed.*

*Jesus replied to Simon, "Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!" 11 And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus.*

*Luke 5:1-11 NLT*

Intro: Recap of the last few weeks

Who Is This Man? Our answer to this question determines the trajectory of our lives.

He's either lunatic, liar, or Lord!

Christianity is founded upon every Word that came from Jesus' mouth being true. If we aren't sold on His Word, then we aren't sold on Him. If we really believe in Him, then we are to follow Him completely. **All Jesus requires of us is our total obedience.** Wait, that's all? (Kidding)

But before we follow Jesus, we must understand who He is, and what He's saying to us. John's Gospel gives us several "I Am" statements that speak to Jesus' identity and purpose. (Give a few examples: Bread of Life, The way, truth, and life, Alpha and Omega, Resurrection and the Life). These statements speak to the CURRENT identity of Jesus

One of the most powerful was in John 8:58, when Jesus told the religious leaders that Abraham looked forward to His coming. They say, Abraham lived hundreds of years ago, you aren't even 50 years old, how have you seen him? Jesus gave the most MIC DROP answer:

**58 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, I AM!" - John 8:58 NLT**

This statement solidified the divinity of Jesus and is one of the only times in Scripture He declared that He was God. The I Am statements don't just reveal Jesus, they reveal the Father. Jesus says "if you've seen me, you've seen the Father."

The "I Am" statement I want to focus on today: **12 Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life." - John 8:12 NLT**

What does light do? It guides us, it helps us see, it gives us direction, it secures us. Story: Think of the headlights on a car. Without them, driving at night would be impossible, or at the very least extremely hazardous. Share time of hitting the raccoon. We can't always avoid bumps in the road, but when we are being led by the light, we will get where we need to go. How often do we rely on darkness to help us escape darkness? The darkness is powerful too. Darkness makes us feel isolated, insecure, unaware, and often fearful.

The only cure for darkness is light. In fact, all darkness is: *the absence of light*. Jesus is the light that has pushed back the darkness. John 1:5 - "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it." There is more for your life than the darkness you are accustomed to!

Jesus said **IF YOU FOLLOW ME**, you won't have to walk in darkness, for you will have light. There is a prerequisite. Follow Him.

*Following Jesus isn't passive, it's intentional.* It doesn't start at day 1 of salvation and get better each day until you go to Heaven. It requires a great deal of sacrifice, effort, and time. We can't follow Jesus like we follow Justin Bieber on Instagram - hit all the highlights, admire from afar, but never truly know Him.

**The direction of our lives is determined by the voices we listen to and the people we follow.** It's true in life, it's true with God. I don't want to follow Jesus passively, I

want to follow Him wholeheartedly. He is the ONLY WAY we get to the light. *I'm not a FAN of Jesus, I'm a FOLLOWER of Jesus.*

Here's a list of things I'm a fan of:

- Atlanta Braves
- Seltzer water
- A good cheeseburger
- 90s Christian music
- Boxing (want to spar with my brother, told me he took boxing...Never mind)

Here's a list of people I'm a follower of:

- Jesus
- People who help me better follow Jesus

That's it

Jesus is the Great Shepherd, we are His sheep. Sheep don't know anything else but to follow the leading of their shepherd. Jesus Himself wept over Jerusalem because they were sheep without a shepherd. Jesus knew our innate need for a shepherd to follow.

### **Refer back to Luke 5**

Read verses 2-5: *Peter served the purpose before He followed the Person.*

Little did he know that in the Person of Jesus, he would discover his very purpose.

Read verses 6-9: What might God want to fill your boat with if you'd simply obey and follow Jesus? Notice how I couple obey and follow together. You can't follow Jesus without fully obeying Him. "BECAUSE YOU SAY SO" What has Jesus already "said so" to you? What excuses are you making?

Read verses 10-11: Following Jesus will always point you to your purpose, just like Peter. These men left everything to follow Him. Following Jesus will cost you the pursuit of other things.

Make no mistake - there will be a cost to following Jesus. The price is **everything else**.

There are 2 calls hidden within the call to follow Jesus

#### **1. A call to commit**

- a. You have to determine in your heart that Jesus is your one thing. No turning back. Jesus isn't looking for half-hearted followers. If you're lukewarm, get ready to be spat out.

- b. Anything worth doing requires our commitment! Marriage, parenting, job, relationships, hobbies, etc. If we aren't in it, we won't do it. Or we might do it, but we won't do it well. I don't know about you, but I want to follow Jesus well.
- c. Jesus asked us to count the cost! **23 Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me. 24 If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. 25 And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed? - Luke 9:23-25 NLT**
- d. Taking up our cross means putting our flesh to death. Be crucified with Him! If you want to gauge your commitment to Jesus, ask yourself what parts of your flesh you're keeping alive. What are you allowing to live that Jesus has asked you to put to death? **But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live. - Romans 8:13 NLT**

## **2. A call to change**

- a. The Spirit of God is an agent of change. When you decide to follow Jesus, you can't remain the same. *It's impossible to be who you were and who you will be at the same time.*
- b. **Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. - Ephesians 5:1 NLT**. Following Jesus requires that we follow His example and change our ways. Our ways and God's ways don't line up. Why do we do this? Because we are dearly loved children. Don't miss this - we don't follow Jesus "so that", we follow Jesus "because." I'm not in this for all the things God will do for me, but for who He is.

Out of all the "I Am" statements, only one does Jesus turn back on us.

**14 "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. - Matthew 5:14 NLT**

In order to be the light, we must follow the light. This is Jesus' way of saying He will put His light in us so that we can shine it for Him. This doesn't make us the bright star for all to see, but rather we are a reflection of the North Star that we should all be following. You don't find Him unless you step into the light. What's your response to Him today?