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## Jesus is Calling--Will You Answer?

*<sup>13</sup> He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. <sup>14</sup> And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. <sup>15</sup> And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. <sup>16</sup> And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" <sup>17</sup> And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners." ~ Mark 2:13-17 ESV*

Discipleship is the process of devoting oneself to a teacher to learn from and become more like them. For the Christian, this refers to the process of learning the teachings of Jesus and following his example in obedience through the power of the Holy Spirit. Discipleship not only involves the process of becoming a disciple but of making other disciples through teaching and evangelism.

Disciple(s) someone who is following Jesus, being changed by Jesus, and is committed to the mission of Jesus.

1. Jesus spots you out of a crowd.

*"All the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. And as he passed by, he saw Levi" ~ Mark 2:13b-14a ESV*

*"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free," ~ Luke 4:18 NIV*

2. Jesus calls you to follow Him.

*"And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." ~ Mark 2:14 ESV*

*And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men. ~ Mark 1:17 ESV*

3. Jesus calls you to change.

*"And he rose and followed him." ~ Mark 2:14c ESV*

*"So, he left all, rose up, and followed Him." ~ Luke 5:28 NKJV*

A. Comfort

*"Whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple." ~ Luke 14:27 NIV*

B. Cherished Sin

*"Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil." ~ John 3:19 NIV*

C. Self

*"God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ~ Genesis 3:5*

4. When You Answer His Call Expect Haters.

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*Jesus said, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." ~ Matthew 5:44*

*He said, "Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven." ~ Luke 6:22-23*