

Who are you Following?

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Mark 1:16-18 (ESV) **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.”**^[a] **18** And **immediately they left their nets and followed him.**

- Jesus says the phrase “Follow me” 21 times in 12 different conversations that were recorded in the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John)

Why did the disciples follow Jesus?..... What happened prior that caused them to “immediately leave their nets and follow him.”

The time between Jesus’ baptism and his “official” call to Peter, Andrew, John, and James was between 6-12 months. (But they were with him throughout that time)

<https://aschmann.net/BibleChronology/ChronologyOfTheFourGospels.pdf>

Timeline of Events

- **John the Baptist begins his ministry** Luke 3:1-18
- **Jesus is baptised** (by the Jordan River) - Luke 3:21-23. Heaven opens, Holy Spirit descends like a dove, the audible voice of God says “You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased.”
- **Jesus is tempted in the desert** - Luke 4:1-13
- **Initial call of Peter and Andrew** (by Bethany on the other side of the Jordan) - John 1:35-42

- Andrew tells Peter “We found the messiah!”

38 Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, **“What are you seeking?”** And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” **39** He said to them, **“Come and you will see.”**

- **Jesus calls Nathaneal and Philip** (between Bethany and Cana) - John 1:43-51
- **Jesus turns water to wine** (In Cana) John 2:1-11

- **Jesus returns to Capernaum, then heads to Jerusalem for Passover, Jesus clears the temple** - John 2:12-25
- **Jesus teaches Nicodemus** - John 3:1-20
 - **Jesus & John and their disciples baptized more people** (Judean countryside at Aenon)
 - **John the Baptist gets put in prison** (1st event in all 4 gospels), Mat 4:12, Mark 1:14, Luke 3:19-20, John 3:24
 - **Jesus and the Samaritan Woman** (at Sychar in Samaria [modern day Nablus]) John 4:1-42
 - **Jesus heals official's son** (at Cana) John 4:43-54
 - **Jesus rejected at Nazareth** - Luke 4:16-30 - Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit and news about him spread
 - 18 "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,
 - 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."^[f]
 - **The miraculous catch and Jesus' Invitation to "Follow Me!"** (at lake of Gennesaret [Sea of Galilee])

Luke 5:1-11 4 And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." 5 And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." 6 And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. 7 They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink..... 10 And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men."^[a] 11 And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Matt 4:18 & Mark 1:16 both say "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Life Lessons: What does it mean to follow Jesus?

- **Akoloutheo** - in Greek-It signified a literal, immediate, and total commitment to abandoning one's life to physically accompany, imitate, and submit to Jesus as a discipleship mentor.
- **Jesus Chose the disciples, He also chooses you -**
- **Jesus' invitation is progressive & transformational -Come and see... Follow me.... Deny yourself, pick-up your cross.... Go to all the world**
- **Peter was asked 4 separate times to follow Jesus**