

SERMON SERIES: Encounters: Follow Me
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DATE: October 20, 2019



Key Line

Don't look back at your life with regrets about following Jesus.

Introduction

We all have experienced times when we missed opportunities and later wished we'd taken advantage of those opportunities.

- Share a time when you missed an opportunity and regretted it later.

Seek the Word

Read Mark

- What was Peter doing when Jesus asked to borrow his boat? (*Fishing*)
- What had Peter's success been that night? Did he catch much? (*No. He did not catch anything.*)
- After Jesus borrowed his boat to teach from, he went back out on the water in the boat with Peter. What did he tell Peter to do? (*Put out his nets on the other side of the boat.*) What happened? (*They got a huge catch.*)
- Later Jesus saw them fishing again. He called them to follow him. What did they do? (*They went with him. They dropped everything to follow Jesus.*)

Talk About It

When Jesus called Peter, he did it immediately.

- Why do you think he left everything and followed Jesus? (*He had experience with Jesus and had seen the things he'd been doing. His experience with Jesus changed his priorities and changed his life.*)

Ryan identified four phases in following Jesus.

- Sit and listen: in this phase, people sit and listen to Jesus and try to decide whether Jesus is worth following. They're learning about him. How do you think you can identify when you or another person are in this stage?
- Loan him the boat: people start asking questions to decide whether they can trust him. How can you identify when you or another person are in this stage?
- Take him fishing: people try obeying and see what happens. How can you identify when you or another person are in this stage?
- Leave your nets: in this phase, people surrender themselves to Jesus and leave behind their past. How can you identify when you or another person are in this stage?

Which phase do you identify with the most?

- Where do you think you are?

- Describe what is happening in your life that makes you think you're at this stage?

When we grow as people, we try to move from one stage to the next.

- How can we grow as Christians and grow in our relationship with God?
- How can we help each other move towards a deeper relationship with God?