

## Lesson 1

# Following Jesus & Fishing for Men

**Thesis:** This lesson is designed to teach the believer the key to evangelism is by being a committed follower of Jesus Christ.

**Memory Verse: Matthew 4:19** - And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

In my experience, there is nothing that will bring more joy to a believer in Christ than bringing someone the good news of salvation and seeing them saved! Nearly all Christians have unsaved family, co-workers, neighbors, or friends that are not saved. What a joy and privilege it is to bring them the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ. (any personal testimony to that from class)

➤ **READ: Matthew 4:18-22**

- **What did Jesus say would cause these men to become “fishers of men”? if they follow Jesus** \_\_\_\_\_
- How can this truth apply to your life?
- How important is your personal walk with the Lord to your sharing Him with others?
- When in your life were you the boldest in sharing your faith with others? Why?
  - Learning is essential to growing in our ability and boldness in sharing the Gospel, but you can have all the information in the world and not be a soul-winner. Jesus is letting us know that sharing the Gospel is not about simply getting more “information” on how to share the Gospel, but more importantly on growing closer to Christ in our daily lives. Evangelism is not as much about education as it is about our relationship to Christ. We become soul winners not simply by what we have “learned”, but by how close we walk to the Lord.
- **What did Jesus say would happen to those who begin to follow Him? They would be fishers of men** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Let’s look at 4 truths about those who follow Jesus closely from this passage.**

**1. Those who follow Jesus closely will always make sacrifices \_\_\_\_\_ to get there.**

- a. What occupation did Peter and Andrew have? They were fisherman
- b. What did they leave in verse 20 in order to follow Christ? their nets
- c. What occupation did James and John have? They were fisherman
- d. What did they leave in verse 22 in order to follow Christ? The ship and their father
- e. **Question: Can I be a soul-winner and not make personal sacrifices?** No
- f. **To be a soul-winner, sacrifice is not optional \_\_\_\_\_ it is necessary** \_\_\_\_\_
- g. **What kind of sacrifices can you personally make?** Set time to go out soul-winning; spend time praying for lost people, make time to study Scriptures to better evangelize, \_\_\_\_\_
- h. **Question: Have you made any sacrifices to be a soul-winner?** \_\_\_\_\_
- i. **What is the answer?** repent and give up some things \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Those who follow Jesus closely will be learning \_\_\_\_\_ to share the Gospel.**

- a. What did Jesus say would happen if they began to follow Him (v.19)? he would make them fishers of men
- b. You don't learn to fish overnight, but if you follow Jesus, you will learn to fish.
- c. In Matthew 5-7 you have the great "Sermon on the Mount" that Jesus preached. Thousands were following Jesus at this time and He walked up a mountain and sat down to teach. Who came to Jesus in Matthew 5:1-2? His disciples
  - i. How long did the disciples follow Jesus before He sent them out in Matthew 28:18-20? 3 years
  - ii. They could not preach what they did not fully understand. How could Peter preach about the death, burial, and resurrection when he did not understand "why" Jesus had to die (Matthew 16:20-23).
- d. **Question:**
  - i. Are you learning how to share the gospel?
  - ii. How much effort have you put into learning how to share your faith with others?
  - iii. Have you been content not knowing Scripture concerning salvation?
- e. **To share the Gospel, we must know \_\_\_\_\_ what the gospel is.**
  - i. Name a verse that tells us we are sinners: \_\_\_\_\_
  - ii. Name a verse that tells us sin has a penalty: \_\_\_\_\_
  - iii. Name a verse that tells us Jesus died for us: \_\_\_\_\_
  - iv. Name a verse that tells us how to be saved: \_\_\_\_\_
- f. **What do you learn from I Peter 3:15?** \_\_\_\_\_
- g. **What do you learn from 2 Timothy 2:15?** \_\_\_\_\_
- h. **What can you do to begin to learn to share the Gospel?**

**3. Those who follow Jesus closely will begin to have a burden \_\_\_\_\_ for the lost.**

- a. Why was His name Jesus according to Matthew 1:23? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Why did Jesus come according to Matthew 18:11? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Why did Paul say Jesus came according to I Timothy 1:15? \_\_\_\_\_
- d. What was Jesus doing right before He called Peter, Andrew, James, and John in Matthew 4:17? \_\_\_\_\_
- e. What do you learn from Luke 15:7,10? \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Jesus Christ was consumed with the salvation of sinners; His living and dying passion was to save them. If Jesus was so burdened for the lost, do you believe you can have Jesus on the throne of your heart and you not be burdened for the lost?
- g. Was the early Church burdened for the lost? Acts 5:40-42; 8:1-5.
- h. When in your life did you feel the greatest burden for the lost? Why? \_\_\_\_\_
- i. What do you feel can cause the burden to die out in your life?
- j. If you draw closer to Jesus why would that cause your burden for the lost to be increased?

**4. Those who follow Jesus closely will begin to tell \_\_\_\_\_ others of Him.**

- a. Those who follow Christ closely not only make sacrifices to follow, they learn to fish, they have a burden for the lost, but finally they cast their nets! If someone is following Jesus closely, they will talk to people about Him.
- b. **Read: John 1:35-45**

- i. After Andrew followed Jesus for a day, what did he do in verse 41? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ii. What did Philip do after he followed Jesus in verse 43-45? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c. **What do you learn from the following passages?**
- i. **Matthew 5:14–16 — 14;** *Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15; Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16; Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*
- ii. **Matthew 10:32–33 — 32;** *Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. 33; But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.*
- Have you ever known a mother who doesn't share the wonderful joy of the birth of a child? How can a Christian not tell others of the wonderful birth of salvation!
  - When you follow Christ closely, He will consume your thoughts and desires; and what is on your mind will come out in your mouth and life.
  - **Question:** Is Christ on your mind often? Do you have Him in your thoughts throughout the week?

**Conclusion:**

- ⇒ What do you think of the following statement: *“Evangelism is not achieved simply by education but rather by a relationship; it is not achieved by simply learning more but walking closer to the Lord.”*
- ⇒ Today we learned that following Jesus closely results in making sacrifices to follow Him, learning to share the Gospel, having a burden for the lost, and telling others about Him. This all comes from being a “committed” follower of Jesus Christ. If that is the case, why then is being a casual Christian so detrimental to evangelism?
- ⇒ Are you following Jesus Close enough? Are you a “Casual Christian” or a “Committed Christian”?