

FOLLOW ME

IN STEP WITH JESUS - THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Are You Coming | Luke 5:1-11

October 21, 2007

1. Do you think that the call to “follow me” that Jesus extended to Peter, James, and John is the same call that he extends to us?

Leader Hints:

In Sunday’s message, Pastor Earl noted that Luke’s use of the term “disciple” is extensive. He uses it in reference to the 12, the 72, many other followers, and he equates disciple with believer in Jesus. If Luke has any contrast for disciples, it is the crowds. Disciples were committed, while the crowds were curious. Luke is indicating that we should be like the disciples, not the crowds. The descriptions of following, therefore, should not be restricted to 12 first century men.

2. Peter, James, and John responded to Jesus’ invitation by “leaving everything and following Jesus.” What does (or should) this look like in your life?

Leader Hints:

First century disciples frequently left everything (literally) to follow the rabbi. The point that Luke is making is not simply that disciples should divest themselves of things or old relationships. I believe that the focus is on not allowing anything to be an excuse to total commitment. Take a look at the “cost of following” passages in Luke, especially 9:57-62. If Jesus is the “one” in our lives, then nothing can get in the way of this primary and central relationship. Jesus’ call is total, and it demands an immediate response.

3. Is Jesus the “one” in your life? Why do you suppose that people (we) struggle with who Jesus is? How does knowing that Jesus is the “one” impact your other relationships and priorities?

4. How is a life that knows it deserves nothing from God ready for God’s grace and blessing?

Leader Hints:

Note Simon’s words (“I am a sinner”) and look at the Centurion’s response in Luke 7:4-7. Genuine humility is gained when we are growing in our vision of who God is. Also check out Isaiah 6 and the prophet’s response to a vision of God (“I am a sinner, undone”).

5. To what degree do you believe that Jesus’ offer of belonging found in the relationship of following him is better than the belonging found in other things or people? How would you explain this reality to someone who is not a follower of Jesus?