



**COME, FOLLOW,
BECOME**

MATTHEW 4:18-20

What is the purpose of having a building foundation?

- It supports the load of the entire building and defines its shape
- It keeps the building standing while the forces of nature wreak havoc on it
- It keeps the ground moisture from seeping in and weakening the structure

That in a summary is the function of the Old Testament

- The New Testament is the building of Jesus Christ, but the Old Testament is the foundation that it rests upon
- If you want to know what Jesus provided on the cross you go to the Old Testament sacrifices and feasts where it is pictured

That in a summary is the function of the Old Testament

- If you want to know what redemptions looks like you go to the deliverance of Israel from Egypt where it is pictured
- If you want to know what faith and discipleship looks like you go to a person by the name of Abraham where it is pictured

That in a summary is the function of the Old Testament

- Because God is infinite and we are finite, He must draw pictures for us so we can begin to grasp concepts outside of our human ability to naturally understand
 - **Psalms 23:1** The Lord is my shepherd – picture definition of our relationship with Almighty God

Word disciple or discipleship in the Bible

- Disciple = To train as a follower, Live out your life similarly to a Master
 - Suggests the deep shaping of character and world view to match the Master's
 - To allow the Master to stamp his image on his followers so they can participate in his life

Word disciple in the Bible

- **Ephesians 5:1-2 NLT** Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children.
2 Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.
- We see the entire scope of discipleship in the life of Abraham and we will use him as our picture this morning

- **Matthew 4:18-19 NKJV** 18 And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. 19 Then He said to them, “Come, follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” 20 They immediately left their nets and followed Him.
- The three words of discipleship – Come, Follow and Become

Jesus is calling Peter and Andrew to be His disciples

- Notice, this is spoken as a command
 - To follow closely after Jesus and learn to interact with this world as He did
 - To be so in tuned with Jesus that when people saw them, they saw reflections of Jesus living through them

Jesus is calling Peter and Andrew to be His disciples

- This is the same call every born-again child of God has on their lives
- We find it in three words or phrases – Come, Follow and Become
- We will see these in Abraham's life as well

The first word in discipleship is – Come

- **Act 7:2-4 NLT** 2 This was Stephen’s reply: “Brothers and fathers, listen to me. Our glorious God appeared to our ancestor Abraham in Mesopotamia before he settled in Haran. 3 God told him, ‘Leave your native land and your relatives, and come into the land that I will show you.’ 4 So Abraham left the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran until his father died. Then God brought him here to the land where you now live.



The first word in discipleship is – Come

- **Genesis 12:1-3 NLT** The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. 2 “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

The first word in discipleship is – Come

- You see all three steps of discipleship in these verses
 - Come – Go from your country
 - Follow me – to the land I will show you
 - Become– I will make your name great and you will be a blessing

The first word in discipleship is – Come

- There is a decision Abraham must make
 - Do I get up and go with God or do I ignore that voice and continue as if I had not heard it?
 - Think of the excuses that could have come into Abraham's mind
 - He could have said, "I want your blessing here God."

The first word in discipleship is – Come

- God could not bless Abraham as He desired while he lived in the far-off land
 - He had to get Abraham unshackled from the chains that held him in Mesopotamia

The first word in discipleship is – Come

- We have that same decision to make today
 - Will I make the decision to come to Jesus today?
 - Will I choose to start the process of allowing God to change me?
- **Vs. 20** They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

The first word in discipleship is – Come

- You must get to the point where you are tired of the sin and straying in your life and you simply decide to get up, get away and come to Jesus

The second phrase of discipleship – Follow Me

- The disciples had no clue what it meant to be a disciple of Jesus Christ
 - They thought they did, but their plans were contrary to Jesus', how they saw the world vastly different than their Master
 - They needed to follow closely, watch intently and imitate singularly Jesus

The second phrase of discipleship – Follow Me

- **Matthew 11:28-30 NIV** 28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

The second phrase of discipleship – Follow Me

- **Hebrews 11:8 NLT** It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going.
 - This does not mean he had no direction
 - God did not lay out His entire plan for Abraham's life

The second phrase of discipleship – Follow Me

- God was leading Abraham into faith and discipleship step by step
 - Abraham had another choice now
 - Will I follow God all the way?
 - Will I be satisfied with a partial blessing?
 - Will I follow Him today?
- Will I choose to live like Jesus today, right here, right now

The second phrase of discipleship – Follow Me

- God was building in Abraham faith, trust and obedience
 - He was teaching Abraham who He is
 - He was teaching Abraham who Abraham was

The second phrase of discipleship – Follow Me

- **Genesis 11:31-32 NLT** 31 One day Terah took his son Abram, his daughter-in-law Sarai (his son Abram's wife), and his grandson Lot (his son Haran's child) and moved away from Ur of the Chaldeans. He was headed for the land of Canaan, but they stopped at Haran and settled there. 32 Terah lived for 205 years and died while still in Haran.

The second phrase of discipleship – Follow Me

- Just like Abraham we get stuck in Haran at times for reasons that seem good to us
- God at times must reinforce within us the desire and will to continue following Him
- You will be tempted to say, “God you have not blessed me yet and look at how far I have come.”
 - God will say, “You are not there yet to bless.”

The second phrase of discipleship – Follow Me

- Randy, where will Jesus take me if I follow Him?
 - The first place is the cross, you will never be a firm disciple of Jesus without a firm decisive look at the cross with deep understanding
 - He will take you to His promises
 - He will take you to your future
 - He will show you who you really are

The second phrase of discipleship – Follow Me

- **John 21:21-22 NLT** 21 Peter asked Jesus, “What about him, Lord?” 22 Jesus replied, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? As for you, follow me.”

The third phrase of discipleship – I will make you or become

- Abraham did not start out a great man of faith
- He started out with just the promise of blessing in his heart and the voice of God in his ear
- In the course of his stumbles, failures and successes in following, Abraham allowed God to change him into a great man of faith

The third phrase of discipleship – I will make you

- He learned some of the character of God
- He learned that God will keep any promise He gave him
- He learned to trust God even when life gets confusing
- He learned that God would supply His own sacrifice

The third phrase of discipleship – I will make you

- Abraham was graced by God with His presence
- He was graced by God with God's promises
- Abraham became the Abraham we love today not because of his obedience, but by the grace of God
- Abraham was a life-long disciple of God
- The result – God kept His promise and through Abraham all nations are blessed because of Jesus Christ

Where are you at in your life with God today?

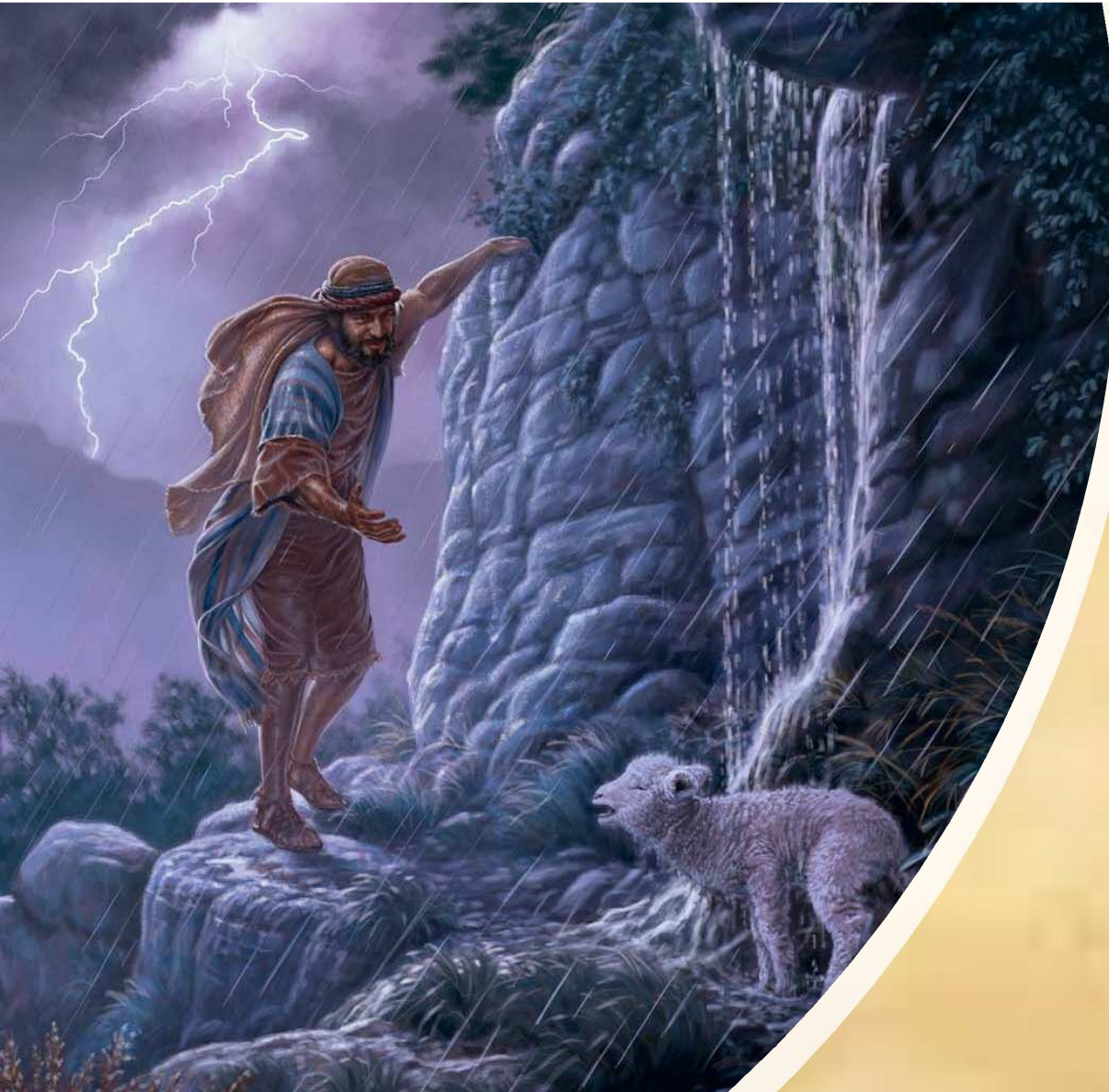
- Do you care only if it is easy and you see worth it?
- Have you refused to choose to come to Him and allow your sins to be forgiven; then you have no eternal hope?
- Are you stuck in your Haran?
 - Life gets sticky at times and it seems easier to tread water wherever we find ourselves than to persevere through to blessing

Where are you at in your life with God today?

- Are you consistently following the leadership of the Holy Spirit?
- Are you consistently listening to the voice of God through His revealed Word?
- Are you putting into practice daily what He is instructing you to do?
- Are you a life-long learner, disciple of Jesus Christ?

Where are you at in your life with God today?

- Paul said, “For me to live is Christ and to die is gain.”
- God is calling some to **Come** this morning
- He is calling some to **Follow** this morning
- He is calling all of us to **Become** what He desires for our blessing



**COME, FOLLOW,
BECOME**

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