

CHOSEN

MATTHEW 4:18-22

Throughout the history of mankind, God has been calling him to Himself

- **Genesis 1:27 NIV** So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.
- **Genesis 3:8 NLT** When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden
- You can almost hear God say, “Come follow Me” as He takes man all around the garden

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- **Genesis 17:1-2 NLT** When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. 2 Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.”
- Come, follow me and I will make you a great nation

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- **Exodus 19:4-6 NIV** 4 ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, 6 you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”

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- **Matthew 4:18-22 NIV** 18 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 19 “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” 20 At once they left their nets and followed him.

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- **Matthew 4:18-22 NIV** 21 Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, 22 and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Matthew gives us the impression this is the first encounter with these men

- The Apostle John records in John 1, some of the 12 had been with Jesus during His early ministry over the year of preparation
- Jesus knew these men and they knew Jesus
- This was not a hasty decision as God the Father was preparing their hearts

Notice it is the same words spoken by God throughout the history of sinful mankind, “Come, Follow Me and I will make”

- Jesus was not calling them to Apostleship even though they ended there
- He was calling followers, disciples to be so close to Him, they would know His heart, desires, and words of life
- They would experience His love and devotion for them

Notice it is the same words spoken by God throughout the history of sinful mankind, “Come, Follow Me and I will make”

- In early Jewish writings the description of a follower of a rabbi was that he was to “cover himself in the dust of the rabbi’s sandals”
 - He was to follow so close he would walk in the dust stirred up by the rabbi’s feet

Notice it is the same words spoken by God throughout the history of sinful mankind, “Come, Follow Me and I will make”

- In early Jewish writings the description of a follower of a rabbi was that he was to “cover himself in the dust of the rabbi’s feet”
 - The picture was of the disciple walking so closely that he might be able to watch and imitate his every word and action

Notice it is the same words spoken by God throughout the history of sinful mankind, “Come, Follow Me and I will make”

- You can see this today at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem as you watch an old white-haired rabbi limping along, bent over being followed by young and vigorous young men bent over and limping like their master
- This is what Jesus was calling these men to do and it also is the call on every one of our lives today

God's first word given to sinful mankind is "Come"

- What do or did you mean when you said, "Come here" to your child?
 - Listen to my voice or do not ignore me or be distracted
 - Stop what they are doing or thinking about, be alert
 - Decide to go to their parent simply because of the request

God's first word given to sinful mankind is "Come"

- There are all sorts of places this interaction could break down
 - They may be so deep into whatever they are doing your voice just becomes background noise
 - They may be in the middle of something important to them at the time

God's first word given to sinful mankind is "Come"

- There are all sorts of places this interaction could break down
 - They may have full intent of obeying after completing what they are doing
 - They could simply say, "No in their mind" – They will ask again, what are they going to do, they can wait

God's first word given to sinful mankind is "Come"

- The Greek word come simply means, "to go or come out of" and it is God's command to mankind
 - To go or come out of and move forward to where God is at

God's first word given to sinful mankind is "Come"

- God my life is a mess and I need you to clean it up –
Come
 - God, I need strength to endure – Come
 - God, I need wisdom – Come

God's first word given to sinful mankind is "Come"

- You can't go or come out of without leaving some things behind
 - These fishermen left their boats and business
 - Matthew left his tax business
 - The Samaritan left her pitcher
 - Paul left his fame and position

God's first word given to sinful mankind is "Come"

- They left something of limited eternal value exchanging it for something priceless
- It is always that way with God
- **Matthew 11:28 MSG** "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life.

God has given us our destination, “Come out to follow Jesus.”

- Our destination is not a place but a person, Jesus Christ
 - Not to just flop down bringing your old self and ways with you
 - Slovenly - Untidy especially in personal appearance and habits, lazily careless in thought

God has given us our destination, “Come out to follow Jesus.”

- You do not know how to be successful in the things of life that are important, but Jesus does
- The idea is we come out of ourselves and present structures around us and walk closely to our Master who does know and has experience living godly in this life

God has given us our destination, “Come out to follow Jesus.”

- The word Follow in the Greek means, “To **accompany**, to **assist**, as well as to **follow**”
 - Jesus invites us to come out of this world and accompany Him as He walks us through this life
 - Marvelous thought, “God inviting us to be with Him.”

God has given us our destination, “Come out to follow Jesus.”

- The word Follow in the Greek means, “To **accompany**, to **assist**, as well as to **follow**”
 - Jesus invites us to assist Him in administering or working in the Kingdom of God now and eternally
 - We each have a place and purpose in the Kingdom of God right now

God has given us our destination, “Come out to follow Jesus.”

- The word Follow in the Greek means, “To **accompany**, to **assist**, as well as to **follow**”
 - When we take our place in God’s Kingdom, we are assisting Jesus here on earth
 - We must remember it is God’s Kingdom and not ours

God has given us our destination, “Come out to follow Jesus.”

- The word Follow in the Greek means, “To **accompany**, to **assist**, as well as to **follow**”
 - Since it is God’s Kingdom, He sets the way His Kingdom will operate
 - We do not know how it operates so we must follow Him closely and learn from/of Him
 - We can only do this if we come out and follow Him

God's promise to you if you come and follow Him is acceptance and purpose and a life full of meaning eternally

- The call upon these men was, “Come, Follow Me and I will get you to the place where you will gather others to the My kingdom.”
- Apostleship is not the destination but the outcome for these men's faith and dedication to Jesus Christ

God's promise to you if you come and follow Him is acceptance and purpose and a life full of meaning eternally

- Our destination is be a follower/disciple of Jesus Christ and allowing Him to make us into what He desires for His Kingdom
- This is the same call on every one of our lives here today and every life that has ever or will ever walk on this earth

God's promise to you if you come and follow Him is acceptance and purpose and a life full of meaning eternally

- You will find that He accepts us just the way we are with the promise to make us into something glorious, a child of the living God eternally
- You will find that your life will have purpose – we are servants of the living God, being used in ways we cannot even imagine

God's promise to you if you come and follow Him is acceptance and purpose and a life full of meaning eternally

- Jesus did not call the “Qualified”, rather He “Qualified” the called
- Our lives will have been lived with meaning and purpose, it meant something for us to have lived on this earth - eternally

God's promise to you if you come and follow Him is acceptance and purpose and a life full of meaning eternally

- **Matthew 6:20 NIV** But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

God has chosen you

- God chooses ordinary people, like you and me – men and women, boys and girls, grandpas and grandmas – to be His modern-day disciples/followers
- By His grace He has chosen us to
 - Believe in Him as our only Lord and Savior
 - To stand firm in the truth of His Word

God has chosen you

- God chooses ordinary people, like you and me – men and women, boys and girls, grandpas and grandmas – to be His modern-day disciples
 - To serve Him through our loving service to those around us
 - To faithfully and joyfully follow wherever He leads us

God has chosen you

- I read a story about a woman telling of her struggle with the reality of being an unwanted child. Her mother was a prostitute, and she was the accidental byproduct of her mother's occupation.

God has chosen you

- Although her life's pilgrimage had brought her to faith in Christ, blessed her with a deeply Christian husband and beautiful children, and given her a life of love and stability, she was obsessed with the need to find out who her father was. This obsession was affecting her marriage, her family, and her life.

God has chosen you

- She told how one day she was standing at the kitchen sink, washing the dishes, with tears of anguish and frustration running down her face into the dishwater. In her agony, she cried out, “Oh, God, who is my father?” Then, she said, she heard a voice saying to her, “I am your Father.”

God has chosen you

- The voice was so real she turned to see who had come into the kitchen, but there was no one there. Again, the voice came, “I am your Father, and I have always been your Father.” In that moment she knew the profound reality that Paul is speaking of. She came to know that deeper than the accident of her conception was the eternal purpose of a loving God, who had spoken her forth into being before the foundation of the world.

God has chosen you

- God the Father desires you, if you will only come to Him through Jesus Christ who demonstrated your Heavenly Father's love expressed toward you by dying on the cross in your place
 - The choice is yours and it is an eternal choice

CHOSEN

MATTHEW 4:18-22