



Discipleship Progression, Matthew 4:18-19

Discipleship Progression

- Jesus makes an astonishing statement in **Matthew 28:18 NIV**, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”
 - Jesus claims absolute, complete, unending, unrelinquished power and authority over everything in heaven and on earth
 - He claims to have been given authority to rule with the power to assure whatever He commands or desires is accomplished throughout eternity

Discipleship Progression

- Jesus makes an astonishing statement in **Matthew 28:18 NIV**, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”
 - Is this a completely true statement without any chance of falsehood or half-truths or has it simply been hyped or exaggerated over time?
 - How you answer this question determines your quality, depth, and assurance of your salvation, faith, and walk as a born-again child of God
 - It determines your peace, security, purpose, and focus as a citizen in the Kingdom of God
 - In a very real sense, it is your life today going forward

Discipleship Progression

- **Matthew 28:19-20 NIV** Jesus commands us individually and corporately to, “19 Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”
 - Jesus commands us and gives us the authority and power to “Go” or it could read “As You Go”
 - To get outside of ourselves, our desires, our comfort zone and purposely take Jesus with you wherever your day takes you
 - To live each day, no matter what comes at you, with His mindset, His priorities, His heart

Discipleship Progression

- **Matthew 28:19-20 NIV** Jesus commands us individually and corporately to, “19 Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”
 - The prayer is simply, “Jesus may they see you in me as I go about my day. May I have the opportunity, privilege to show you today to a lost and dying world.”
 - It carries the idea of purposeful living
 - It carries the idea of you personally being a disciple of Jesus

Discipleship Progression

- **Matthew 28:19-20 NIV** Jesus commands us individually and corporately to, “19 Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”
 - So many try and live the moral codes of Scripture without understanding it is impossible for us within ourselves
 - We must walk with Jesus daily
 - We must imitate and live the teachings of Jesus daily
 - We must grasp the very heart of Jesus Christ daily
 - In other words, we must personally be disciples of Jesus

Discipleship Progression

- **Matthew 28:19-20 NIV** Jesus commands us individually and corporately to, “19 Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”
 - How many times did the disciples following Jesus fail because they did not have the heart of Jesus
- So, the question today is, “How do I become a living disciple of Jesus?”

Scripture

- **Matthew 4:18-19 NCV**, 18 As Jesus was walking by Lake Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (called Peter) and his brother Andrew. They were throwing a net into the lake because they were fishermen. 19 Jesus said, “Come follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” 20 So Simon and Andrew immediately left their nets and followed him.

Discipleship Progression

- Salvation brings a new voice, pull into your life
 - **Ezekiel 11:19-20 NCV**, 19 I will give them a desire to respect me completely, and I will put inside them a new way of thinking. I will take out the stubborn heart of stone from their bodies, and I will give them an obedient heart of flesh. 20 Then they will live by my rules and obey my laws and keep them. They will be my people, and I will be their God.
 - Ultimately this happens when we receive our resurrected bodies
 - Today we still have a stubborn heart, but we are in a transition phase where we also have a desire from an obedient heart

Discipleship Progression

- Salvation brings a new voice, pull into your life
 - **Ezekiel 11:19-20 NCV**, 19 I will give them a desire to respect me completely, and I will put inside them a new way of thinking. I will take out the stubborn heart of stone from their bodies, and I will give them an obedient heart of flesh. 20 Then they will live by my rules and obey my laws and keep them. They will be my people, and I will be their God.
 - So how can I learn to hear and live my life more from the obedient voice than the stubborn heart?
 - The answer is in becoming a Disciple of Jesus

Discipleship Progression

- I would like to tell you that becoming a disciple of Jesus happens instantly after salvation
 - There is a progression of unlearning the stubborn and learning the obedient
 - You see this progression in our Scripture focus today

Discipleship Progression

- **Matthew 4:18 NCV**, 18 As Jesus was walking by Lake Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (called Peter) and his brother Andrew. They were throwing a net into the lake because they were fishermen.
- What were Simon and Andrew doing when Jesus approached them?
 - They were busy running their fishing business with all the stress that came with it
 - Simon and Andrew were busy people
 - They were providing for their families with all the stress there
 - Their lives were planned out, they were working their plan, and apparently mostly successful

Discipleship Progression

- **Matthew 4:19 NCV**, 19 Jesus said, “Come follow me, and I will make you fish for people.”
 - Then here comes Jesus disrupting their lives
 - He is calling them or inviting them to leave behind what they know and are good at and learn to become something they will struggle to become
 - Notice the progress of thought with three words or phrases spoken from Jesus – “Come”, “Follow Me”, “I will Make”
 - I would call this the “Progression of Discipleship”

The first word Jesus spoke to them was, “Come”

- This is not a call to salvation, but discipleship
- Keep in mind what Simon and Andrew are doing when they hear Jesus say this word
 - This was not their first encounter with Jesus
 - They had heard Him teach, seen His love and compassion for the poor and outcast, probably witnessed His healing as proof of His authority
 - They probably believe Jesus was a blessed teacher from God
 - Jesus’ words rattling around in their minds as they went about their day

The first word Jesus spoke to them was, “Come”

- Keep in mind what Simon and Andrew are doing when they hear Jesus say this word
 - I believed Jesus has prepared them for this time
 - Nothing miraculous, spectacular, no fireworks just a simple word, “Come”
- Come is an action word with assumed obedience implied
 - Jesus is inviting them to make a conscience, not an emotional, decision
 - Emotional decisions can get us in trouble at times

The first word Jesus spoke to them was, “Come”

- Jesus is inviting them to decide to change the direction their lives are going or the way they are seeing and living out their blessing of life given them by God
 - Change the way you see yourselves Simon and Andrew
 - Change the way you think, make decisions, direction your life is heading
 - Change to look at life through God’s eyes, heart, desires
 - Change to leave your old stubborn life behind
 - Change the priorities in your lives

The first word Jesus spoke to them was, “Come”

- You hear this thought in other places in Scripture
 - **Joshua 24:15 NIV**, “Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve”
 - **Deuteronomy 30:15 NIV**, “Now choose life, so that you and your children may live”
 - **Matthew 11:28 NCV**, “Come to me, all of you who are tired and have heavy loads, and I will give you rest.”

The second phrase Jesus spoke to them was, “Follow Me”

- Can we admit, we within ourselves have no clue on how to a live godly blessed life
 - Without Scripture we would be as lost as a shipwreck at sea just hoping for a piece of debris to float by we could hang on to
 - But Jesus knows

The second phrase Jesus spoke to them was, “Follow Me”

- **John 1:4-5 NCV**, 4 In him (*implied and Him alone*) there was life, and that life was the light of all people. 5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overpowered it.
 - In Jesus was the life we were created to live to the fullest
 - You want to know what a truly blessed life is – look at Jesus
 - You want to know how to please God – look at Jesus
 - You want to know how to live and die blessed – look to Jesus

The second phrase Jesus spoke to them was, “Follow Me”

- God also know we are weak within ourselves
 - **Psalm 103:14 NCV**, He knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.
 - **Matthew 26:41 NCV**, “The spirit wants to do what is right, but the body is weak.”
 - This is not an excuse but a statement of fact
 - Jesus was sent not just to purchase our salvation but to teach us how to live blessed in the here/now and eternally

The second phrase Jesus spoke to them was, “Follow Me”

- The question Jesus is really asking Simon and Andrew is, “Who are you going to pattern your life after?”
 - You can pattern it after the world, the present society, the ones who lived before you or your contemporaries
 - Or you can pattern it after the one who conquered death, hell, and the grave and rose victorious over everything Satan could throw at Him

The second phrase Jesus spoke to them was, “Follow Me”

- What does it mean to follow Jesus?
- Jesus took His disciples everywhere He went except for His times of prayer
- What were they to do?
 - Watch how Jesus lived, loved, cared, spoke, responded to life
 - Watch what was important to Jesus
 - Watch what Jesus believed
 - It was not enough for them to know about Jesus, they were to imitate or mimic Jesus in their daily lives

The second phrase Jesus spoke to them was, “Follow Me”

- So often we will say something like, “Well Randy, I can’t heal like Jesus did. I can’t just walk away from stoning or scary times like Jesus did. I can’t calm storms with just my words.”
 - No, not unless God gives you that authority and command
 - But we can live by the truth behind everything that Jesus taught and lived
 - We can love as Jesus did, see our lives as Jesus did, respond to life as Jesus did
 - We can calm the storms in our lives or be an anchor in the storms in the lives of other as Jesus did

The second phrase Jesus spoke to them was, “Follow Me”

- “Come, follow me” will ultimately lead us to failure if we are only strong and confident in ourselves
- There is one more truth or command that must be grasped before we can be a consistent disciple of Jesus

The third and last phrase Jesus spoke to them was, “I will make”

- God knows in/of ourselves there is no way we can consistently walk the discipleship path
 - All the disciples suffered from personal weaknesses from their sinful nature
 - **Matthew 26:41 NCV**, “Stay awake and pray for strength against temptation. The spirit wants to do what is right, but the body is weak.”

The third and last phrase Jesus spoke to them was, “I will make”

- As we come to Jesus, Follow Jesus imitating Him, He promises to supply everything you will need to become His consistent disciple
 - I would like to tell you that it becomes easy and steady from then on
 - We must not forget we have two enemies or adversaries fighting us

The third and last phrase Jesus spoke to them was, “I will make”

- We must not forget we have two enemies or adversaries fighting us
 - **Ephesians 4:22-24 NIV**, 22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.
 - **1st Peter 5:8 NIV**, Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.
 - This may seem like an insurmountable change, but Jesus promises “I will make you”

The third and last phrase Jesus spoke to them was, “I will make”

- **Philippians 4:19 NCV**, “My God will use his wonderful riches in Christ Jesus to give you everything you need.”
 - This is in the relationship of “Come and Follow Me”
 - When discouragement comes, we will remember **Philippians 1:6 NIV**, “Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”
- If he could make a denier like Peter a disciple or Paul a murderer as disciple, then you are no real challenge to God

Discipleship Progression

- You will hear these words every single day of your Christian life
 - “Come today, Follow me today, and I will make you today”
 - It is a decision you must make daily and at times staring into events that pressure you
 - It does not matter if you are just starting on the discipleship path or if you have been on it for 70 years

Discipleship Progression

- We must always be alert to the pull of this sinful world to draw us away or settle for less and the frailty of our own hearts
 - Know who you are in Christ Jesus
 - Know who your Savior is and what He has promised
 - Know where you are going
 - Pick up your sword of faith, which is the Word of God
 - Trust His character and work explicitly
 - Walk every day in His victory regardless of what your day looks like because we are becoming disciples of Jesus



Discipleship Progression, Matthew 4:18-19

