

Following Jesus in 2025

Mark 1:16-20

*“A pupil is not above his teacher, but **everyone**, after he has been fully trained (equipped) will be like his teacher.” (Luke 6:40)*

*“Do not be **deceived**, bad company corrupts good morals.”
(2 Cor. 15:33)*

*“Therefore, I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy **sacrifice**, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of **worship**.” (Romans 12:1)*

Mark's account of Jesus calling Peter, Andrew, James, and John gives us five spiritual realities of Jesus calling men to a new life with Him.

I. **Your call to follow is planned.** (*He saw, He called...*)

II. Your call to follow is personal. (*Andrew, Simon, etc....*)

III. Your call to follow is purposeful. (*I will make you...*)

IV. Your call to follow is pricey.

In order to follow they had to make a decision. It was a **response** of their mind, will, emotions, and affections—of their **full personhood** to the call of Jesus on their lives.

V. Your call to follow is permanent. (...they followed Him)

Jesus drew these men to Himself **while they were still in sinful unbelief**. He didn't leave them in their sin; He chose to bring them to Himself to **forgive** them and redefine them as His **servants**.

Jesus is the truth; you are the lie. He gives **Himself** as truth in exchange for yourself as a lie. In that spiritual exchange, **you** are made alive in Him...forever!

Jesus preaches His gospel of God and continues His ministry of changing lives by working **through ordinary people He has transformed**, and is **continuing** to transform, by his undeserved love and favor in your life.

Jesus causes us to abandon what had killed us and deceitfully robbed us of life so that we can share in **His** life and pursue what is precious to **Him**.

And while we learn to love Him as we walk with Him, we also come to learn what is truly precious in life and to value what is valuable. Jesus teaches us to treasure **what is worthy of Him**.

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