

Future Now: Living for the The King and The Future Kingdom

Building on the last sermon series called “Disciple Makers”, this series looks at how Christians can live with the future in mind. emphasising how the gospel transforms lives and shapes our future perspective. We are challenged to consider what future we're living toward and how the gospel is changing us.

Week 1: The Call to Follow Jesus—The King Invites Us

Key Reflection Passage: Matthew 4:18–22; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Observations of the text:

- What stands out to you about the way Jesus calls the first disciples in Matthew 4:18–22, and how does that compare with the way the Thessalonians responded to the gospel in 1 Thessalonians 1:6–9?
- In Matthew 4:19, Jesus says, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” How do you see that promise being fulfilled in the life of the Thessalonian church (1 Thessalonians 1:8)?
 - *Explore the connection between being called and being sent.*
- What role does imitation play in both passages (Matthew 4:20; 1 Thessalonians 1:6)?
 - *How does following Jesus (or imitating Paul, as the Thessalonians did) shape the life of a disciple today?*
- How does the response of Peter, Andrew, James, and John (Matthew 4:20, 22) mirror the kind of faith, love, and hope Paul commends in 1 Thessalonians 1:3?
 - *What do these passages show us about the marks of true discipleship?*
- Both passages highlight a visible transformation. What do these transformed lives tell the surrounding world about Jesus and His Kingdom (cf. Matthew 4:22; 1 Thessalonians 1:9–10)?
 - *What might it look like for our lives to “ring out” the message of the gospel (1:8)?*
- The Thessalonians “turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God” (1 Thessalonians 1:9). How does this turning echo the radical change seen in Matthew 4:18–22?

Reflection Focus:

- Discipleship begins with The King inviting us into His Kingdom. This call to follow is not just about salvation but about following the King into His mission.
- Kingdom is not just a future hope; it begins now, and we are part of it.
- Word Study: "Follow" (Greek: *akolouthéō*): This word means to accompany or to follow in the way of a teacher, not just in physical space, but in life and practice.

Questions for Reflection:

1. How has your understanding of The King's call shaped your life?
2. What does it mean to "follow" Jesus in your everyday life?
3. In what ways do you experience The Kingdom of God now, not just in the future?
4. How is the Holy Spirit enabling you to follow Jesus more closely?

Action Step:

- Consider an area in your life where you are hesitating to surrender to King Jesus. Discuss and pray.