Introduction

We live in a world where many people are calling us to follow. There is one we can trust above all others and his name is Jesus. Why should we follow Jesus?

I. JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.
MATTHEW 4:12-17

Scholars have traditionally divided Jesus’ ministry into three years.

• A year of obscurity – near the Jordan and in Judea and Samaria - John 1:29-4:42. “Come and See”
• A year of growing popularity – primarily in Galilee. This is where Matthew begins his story in Matthew 4:12. “Come and Follow Me”
• A year of increasing opposition in Judea and Jerusalem that will lead to his death. “Come and Be With Me and Remain in Me”.

When Jesus left his ministry in the south, he first went to Nazareth, his hometown. But when Jesus spoke in the synagogue, they were offended by his message and tried to kill him. Luke 4:14-30

So Jesus left Nazareth and went to Capernaum by the Sea of Galilee to fulfill what was written in Isaiah 9:1-2.
In this dark place a light has dawned.

“Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

II. JESUS CALLS US INTO A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.
MATTHEW 4:18-22

Here we see Jesus calling four men to be his disciples – Peter, Andrew, James and John.

“Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of men.”

“At once they left their nets and followed him.”

Observations on discipleship:
• Jesus called them and Jesus calls us.
• When Jesus calls, the proper response is obedience.
• Whatever our vocation, his purpose is to make us fishers of men.
• Jesus’ method of discipleship was to work with a few and build into their life the heart of a disciple maker.

These four men would be used by God to turn the world upside down.

Have you answered the call to follow Jesus?
Are you growing as a disciple?
Are you a disciple maker?

III. JESUS TRANSFORMS LIVES.
MATTHEW 4:23-25
Jesus cares about people. He cares about our physical and spiritual needs. His ministry in Galilee included three things.

• Teaching in the synagogues.
• Preaching (proclaiming) the good news of the kingdom.
• Healing every disease and sickness.

The kingdom has come near in Jesus. It is already here, but not yet in all its fullness. The day is still coming when “God will wipe away every tear from our eyes and there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain.” Revelations 21:4 Jesus changes lives. The gospel is a life transforming message.

Conclusion

We can all be a witness for Christ by our life and words.

“The great temptation for the church is to be keepers of the aquarium rather than fishers of men.” E.V. Hill

PRAY – Who are you praying for?
INVITE – Who could you invite to church or to your home?
SHARE – Who needs to hear the gospel in your circle of friends?