

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Meet the God/Man, Jesus Series, Lesson 33

Lesson Title: Jesus – Our Leader

Take Home Point: Jesus wants to be our leader.

Warm-Up:

What do you look for in a leader? What makes a leader? There are countless books and articles that attempt to define the characteristics of a leader, but it generally comes down to a few qualities that combine in an individual. A leader must be trustworthy, with a vision that gives direction to those seeking it. A leader must be able to communicate the vision in a way that inspires confidence that the goal is worthwhile and the leader will get us there. That confidence and trust results in a willingness to follow and act on the leader's direction.

Read: Mark 1:14-20

Observation (What happened?):

What had Jesus started to do in the time he called his first disciples?

How long was the time between Jesus calling them to follow him and their response?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think Jesus picked everyday working men to be his disciples?

List all the different things the disciples might have been thinking when Jesus called them and they responded.

Insight:

Do you suppose the first disciples had any idea what they were getting into when they responded to Jesus? After following him their whole lives, here's what Scripture and tradition tell us: they were all martyred. Peter – crucified. Andrew – crucified. James, son of Zebedee – beheaded. James, son of Alphaeus – martyred in Persia, means unknown. John – boiled in oil, miraculously unharmed, died of old age. Bartholomew – crucified or flayed to death. Matthew – slain by the sword. Simon the Zealot – sawed in two. Philip - hanged. Thaddeus – slain by the sword. Thomas – pierced by a spear while praying. If trouble and persecution was their lot, why should we expect to live a life of ease and self-gratification as we declare Jesus to be our leader? But no matter what happens in this life, if we choose to respond to him as our leader, we can be assured that how we live will count for eternity.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What is Jesus calling you to do? How is he speaking to you? Are you responding immediately? If not, what is holding you back?

What kind of example are you giving to those around you to show that Jesus is your leader?