

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions The Best Gift of All – Jesus Series, Lesson 33

Lesson Title: Jesus Calls His Disciples

Take Home Point: Follow Jesus

Warm-Up:

Have you ever thought about what it would be like to be blind? Perhaps you know someone who is blind, or sometime in your life you experienced temporary blindness due to an accident or illness and so you can relate to the condition. But, it is hard for me to imagine. However, I do know that it means to be completely dependent on someone else in unfamiliar territory. Blind people must trust others with sight to guide them through the circumstances of the unknown. It seems to me that's how life is for all of us. We may think we have a good idea about things, but in reality, we have no vision at all of what is really around us, what is going to happen next, or what will come of our next step. We need a guide who can see it all. And those who follow Jesus have one. He may not tell us every step, but he does tell us to follow and trust him.

Read: John 1:35-51

Observation (What happened?):

What did Jesus say to convince the "not yet" disciples to follow him?

What was the first thing Andrew and Philip did?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think these men wanted to follow Jesus?

What might the disciples have been thinking when Jesus told them to follow him?

Insight:

What does it really mean to follow Jesus? Do you think the disciples had any idea what they were getting into when they followed him? Does anyone? Many people believe following Jesus means, "I'm going to do this and then I will do that because it's what he wants me to do." But it's not that nice and simple. Things get in the way, like our old nature and a sinful world. Following Jesus is not so much what we do as it is who we are. As he taught, Jesus was deliberately vague about specific actions the disciples were to take, but he did tell them to love one another, to obey his word, to make more followers. And there are as many different ways to do these as there are people. Following Jesus means loving others as God loves us, forgiving others as God forgives us, helping others as God helps us. It means learning and living the attitudes of Christ (*Philippians 2:5-8 and Galatians 5:22-23*). We don't know what circumstances we will face, and God will not always voice exactly what he wants us to do. That was true of the disciples who followed Jesus face to face, and we can be absolutely confident it will be true for us as well. So we follow him in spirit and in truth, doing our best to be like him. That's following Jesus.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Why do you want to follow Jesus?

How do you encourage others to follow him?

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