

## MARK 1:16-20

## “FOLLOW ME”

<sup>16</sup> As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup> “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” <sup>18</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him.

<sup>19</sup> When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. <sup>20</sup> Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

The concept of Christian call was first articulated by Jesus Christ when he invited the disciples to “*Come, follow me*” (Matthew 4:19; Mark 1:17; John 1:39, 43). In the three synoptic Gospels, Jesus further defined the call by saying, “*I will make you fishers of men*” (Matthew 4:19; Mark 1:17; Luke 5:10). Just as the Great Commandment to love God and neighbor has both a vertical and a horizontal aspect, so too does the Christian call. “*Come, follow me*” is an invitation into a relationship with God. “*I will make you fishers of men*” calls us to be proactive in building relationships in the world. But hidden between these two aspects of the Christian call is the reality that we are dependent upon God in order to fulfill our call. We are to **follow** Jesus, and he will **make** us fishers of men. The process has traditionally been presented by the church as discipleship.

The Christian disciple is one who: 1) makes Jesus a priority in his life; 2) understands the requirements of being a follower of Jesus; and 3) resolves to stay the course in obedience to the Master. Discerning the specific practices that result from such a commitment entails takes interaction with God’s Word, prayer, involvement in a healthy community (fosters encouragement) and listening to God through all the means he makes available to his disciples.

**Jesus, as you called the first disciples, you have called me. Give me the faith strength to follow you as they did – immediately and without reservation. Help me make you the priority of my life and empower me to live in obedience to your perfect will. Amen**