

Title: Formed to Follow
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Word

Introduction

- Dysfunctional families produce dysfunctional people.
- The majority even of educated people who are prepared for a vocation are not prepared for marriage, family, and life.
- We are products of our discipleship and most people are badly under-discipled.

Fatherless children are at a dramatically greater risk of drug and alcohol abuse, mental illness, suicide, poor educational performance, teen pregnancy, and criminality.

If there were more disciples, there would be less crime, less divorce, less drug abuse, and less unwanted pregnancies.

Most Christians who don't make disciples were themselves not discipled.

Discipleship = our greatest need.

Mark 1:16-20

¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰ Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Introduction

- The new exodus (1:1-3)
- Summary of Jesus ministry (1:14-20) - His message and method.
- A day in the life of Jesus (1:21-39)
- First contact with Jesus?

Mark 1:16-20

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The repetition helps us notice important themes as well as the structure of the passage:

- The setting (1:16, 19)
- The call (1:17, 20a)
- The response (1:18, 20b)

The setting (1:16, 19)

- Jesus called two sets of brothers.
- They were fisherman - Jesus defines discipleship in familiar terms: compare student, apprentice, player-coach
- They were busy with nets - casting or preparing.

The calling (1:17, 20a)

1. A command to follow Him - what we must do.
2. A promise to form them - what He will do.

We often confuse these two and try to do what only Jesus can.

1. Follow implies life-on-life discipleship:



2. Forming is what Jesus promises to do for us while we follow.

- Disciples are followers who are formed to make followers, who are formed...
- Jesus makes disciples by making disciple-makers.
- 'We are made to make disciples' -Chan

- Discipleship is a self-perpetuating process started by Jesus Himself.
- Only disciples can make disciples.
- All disciples will make disciples.

The response (1:18, 20b)

- Leave something behind - note progressive repetition.
- Follow Him: learn by hearing, seeing, and doing, e.g. 'I show you once...'

Conclusion

- Following implies life-on-life discipleship.
- If we follow Him, He will form us.
- There are things you need to leave.