

Renewal

“Day by day we are being renewed”



Hempfield UMC / September 10, 2017

Follow Jesus.

Jesus Christ calls each of us to follow him and become his disciple. This call is extended to everyone, yet it is perceived in many different ways and requires our "Yes" in response. Once we respond, we embark on a life-changing journey that prepares us for service in the Kingdom of God. **Luke 5** records the calling of Simon Peter, which can serve as an example of how Jesus calls all his disciples.

1. Jesus is very mindful of the one he wants to call.

When Jesus sat in Simon Peter's boat to teach the crowds, he was not only mindful of the crowds, but he was very mindful of Simon Peter who sat behind him. Jesus knew what he was going to do. Jesus placed Peter in a position where Peter had to listen to the entire message. When Jesus asked Peter to put out into deep water for a catch, Peter already believed in Jesus' authority.

Become mindful that Jesus is mindful of you.

Jesus is always mindful of us, even when we are not mindful of him. Yet we can learn to practice mindfulness, and become increasingly aware of Jesus' presence. Try to find quiet time each day simply to become more aware of Jesus' mindfulness of you.

2. Jesus will call us, and we must say "yes!"

The fishermen, Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John, left their boats and the miraculous catch of fish on the shoreline, and followed Jesus. The circumstances of each person's calling may be different, but the substance is the same. Jesus will call us, and we must decide to follow him.

Listen for his call, and be prepared to say "Yes!"

Understand that Jesus that will never call us to do something on our own. He will always call us to follow him and participate in his work. He will never leave us nor forsake us. His call will always be followed by a closer walk with him. He desires to be our Savior, Teacher, and Friend. But he will never impose himself on us. He will call us, and we must say "Yes."

3. *Following Jesus requires us to leave things behind*

After the fishermen heard the call of Jesus, they left their nets and boats behind and followed him. All they had ever known was fishing, and they expected to spend the rest of their lives catching fish. But Jesus had another idea. So it is with us. We may think we know what the rest of our lives will be like, but Jesus has a different idea.

What must you leave in order to follow Jesus?

Each of us must leave things behind. For some, there is a physical leaving, where Christ calls us to move from one place to another. For others, there is a relational leaving, where we can no longer follow Jesus and run with the crowd. Yet for others, the leaving is ideological, where we can not follow Jesus and continue to believe in former things. Yet the joy we have in following Jesus far outweighs the cost.

Questions *for reflection or group discussion:*

Do you think there is a difference between a “Christian” and a follower of Jesus Christ?

Jesus could have called people who were already trained religious leaders.
Why do you think he called fishermen?

Have you ever heard the call of Jesus Christ to follow him, and have you said “Yes?”

What must you leave in order to follow Jesus?

Do you think Jesus is preparing you for a work he has in mind?



Your Notes *what God is saying to you:*
