

10302022 Jesus is always honest with people. You may not always like what he says, but it's the truth. You may not want to hear it, but it's the truth. Jesus is a man of integrity, The friend who will always be faithful, The counselor whose insights will never prove false.

When Jesus expresses an observation or issues a warning, concerning a person or any particular situation, he can always be counted on for pin point accuracy. When Jesus promises, he can always be trusted to follow through. He will never withhold from you what is needful for your spiritual growth. If he reveals something, it must be essential for your life, even if it's painful and demanding.

And yet it is with ease That Jesus seems to walk right through anyone's system of defense, never seeming to fear that he would damage a person's complex identity. Instead he goes nearly immediately to our greatest fears, our most injured spaces and speaks into those places with authority, truth and love.

How did he do this? Jesus really loved people and connected to people's heart...where they really lived... what they feared, what motivates them. And that is exactly what drew people to Jesus...he really loves them and they feel it...

So much that some people wanted to follow him...or were willing to follow him if he asked...but Jesus told them the truth about what they were possibly embarking upon... He didn't woo potential followers with sugar-coated promises of how easy their lives would be if they believed in him. He told them right up front about the cost and rewards of following him.

Today we and Jesus disciples will learn from others as Jesus speaks to some potential followers.. those who would follow but need to know what that looks like, the cost of doing so...and in particular He addresses the kind of heart needed to follow him. He isn't being harsh – he is being real... set the scene

Luke 9:57 As they were walking along, someone said to Jesus, “I will follow you wherever you go.” ⁵⁸ **But** Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, **but** the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head.”

1. The man makes a statement of what he will do...I will follow you wherever you go...

Jesus gives him a but ... The word “but” gives a disqualifier or contradiction to the preceding sentence.

2. Jesus Presents a case that will cause the man to not follow Jesus...how does Jesus know this? He knows what's in a person's heart....He did not deny him following...but obviously the man thought following Jesus would create a life of comfort...to some level... In fact The biggest enemy to calling is security

- **Your security must be in the person Jesus...And decide to commit our future security by believing his promise.**

NLT Matthew 6:33 says, ³³ **Seek** the Kingdom of God^[e] **above all else, and live righteously,** and he will give you everything you need.

³⁴ “So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today

Know this:Jesus did not say ...this man would not have a place to lay his head or have a home ... Jesus said he would not...

For as we know most people who follow Jesus who follow Jesus live in homes and build their lives in a community...

*****The point...One must be committed to Jesus ... In order to follow Jesus, we must give first priority to Jesus. follow him without “Buts”...any disqualifiers**

Luke 9:59 He said to another person, “Come, follow me.” The man agreed, but he said, “Lord, first let me return home and bury my father.”

- I cannot think of a greater honor or show of love or expression of acceptance than the fact that he would bid anyone to come be with him this is quite astonishing.
- **The only thing more astonishing than Jesus great estimation of a person’s worth and his desire to include them is their low esteem of him to procrastinate or reject the offer...amazing.**
- Jesus invites him to enter Jesus’ mission ...this man said yes I will.. but then adds “but” I want to stay in my mission longer for it is first priority!!... bad timing
- **I want to wait until my father dies! This man’s father is not dead...**
- **If the man's father has just died, ...He should be home making funeral arrangements! Observing the 40 days of mourning It's obvious that his father isn't dead -- yet.**
- **Most likely not even seriously ill, or the man would be asking Jesus for healing.**
- **What the man is saying is this: I have responsibilities to my father as long as he lives. I'm not free to follow you right now. But when my dad dies -- and he is getting on in years -- then I'll follow you right away. I just can't follow now.**

⁶⁰ **But** Jesus told him, “Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead! **Your duty** is to go and preach about the Kingdom of God

- Jesus who looks beyond words to the heart knew this man was conflicted...
- Jesus said the spiritually dead...those spiritually disconnected focus all their attention and hopes in the natural..
- But you he you says are spiritually alive... you know about God’s kingdom...and want you to help others to know it also so follow -- NOW!
- Jesus who looks beyond words to the heart knew this man was conflicted...was attached to all kinds of dead things..things that don’t being spiritual life.....and it seems his father was also...
- Bottom line ..Speaking the truth to his family, about a new career and call given by Jesus for this man’s life was a scary thing to this man and like many of us we put it off...I see I all the time...people hungry for God...until they get a job...often times not enough time to serve Jesus in any way ...too tired
- People in love with Jesus until a relationship happens...then keeping that person happy more important than honoring God...
- For most of us, our call to follow Jesus does NOT mean we have to physically leave loved ones.
- But we may need to leave them behind spiritually in order to follow Jesus.

Matt 6:24 “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.

- You cannot have your hope in money...what if provides security wies and also have you hope in God as your security...

25 *“That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn’t life more than food, and your body more than clothing?”²⁶ Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far more valuable to him than they are?²⁷ Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? **No but it is medically proven to take years off your life....***

- **Following Jesus is a NOW thing. It is not a future thing Why? If you say you are following God in the futureyou are following something else now.**
- So if something dead is keeping you from following Jesus...Bury it now!!**
- **If you are anything like me and like most of the people I know, we have things in our past that are death to us, but are not buried.**
- **We have old sins - things done and things left undone - old sins that are long dead to our lives...yet we go back to them trying to find life there., because they have not been buried; and they cause us anguish and guilt.**
- **Some of us had bad examples of people who said they followed Jesus ...and we rejected Jesus because of that...I understand but you will follow something else...in the meantime...**
- **We have old relationships, long-gone and long-dead, but not buried; and they still cause us pain, guilt, and other strong emotions.**
- **We have long-ago and long-gone missed opportunities that are dead, but still eat at us...**
- **And some of us have chosen to live crazy...**

Peter says it this way

NIV 1 Peter 4:3 For you have spent **enough time** in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry.

- **Pagans the spiritually dead separated... with all their idols things they hope give them life**
- **I have done many, many, funerals from young to real old...and no one at a funeral has ever said to me...I wish I would have worked more! Or Had more stuff! I spent a lot of time on things I don't think were that important now...A bigger house, more cars.....but always...I wish I would have spent more time with those I love... I wish I would have been more spiritual...I don't think I did enough to help others...**

Jesus has a future and a new purpose offered to this man... Jesus does not want this man to miss the opportunity of his life time...

The message to you and me is just as strong:

Bottom line... Jesus did not say follow me or return to a horrible way of life...he says half hearted following (I want to follow but can't make up my mind when) is no following at all.

Willingness to do what Jesus asks... without doing it...is the same as not doing it...

NIV Luke 9: 61 Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; **but first** let me go back and say goodbye to my family." ⁶² Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

This appears to be a harsh response, All the man wanted to do was go home and say good-bye. That's all.

- What's so wrong with that? We often think following you today or tomorrow or next week...makes no difference..
- What he did not know ...it makes all the difference... as there will be an amazing opportunity if he follows now... **for the man to go home will mean that he will miss out, though his request seems reasonable enough.**
- Jesus did not ask this guy to leave forever...he said he had a mission for him now... A field to be plowed now...
- In all my years of ministry I have never met anyone ...who felt called by the Lord...and that day left forever their family...and just wished they had a chance to say goodbye!
- **It is a step by step call to service!**
- **But he wanted to make a huge event of serving Jesus!**
- **Jesus has the ability to challenge with kindness...**

*LK 9: 62 Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for **service** in the kingdom of God."*

In the original language To "put your hand to the plow" means to begin the task of plowing....he is a beginner! So what Jesus was asking him...he was certainly capable to go and do...

If he can't begin do something rather small...he is not fit or **suitable for greater service in the kingdom of God"**

- And Jesus equate the job to plowing a field... a farmer does not plow all year round ...but there is a time to plow...and timing is important..it is the beginning of planting a field!
- whether your plow is pulled by a mule or work horses or a diesel tractor there is one no-no:
- **You never try to plow while looking over your shoulder backward. You know see who is watching you! Giving you atta**

boys...or girls...admiring how much you have done...seeing who else is plowing... If you do, your rows are crooked and your field is difficult to work.

- If you try to plow while looking back, you're not fit to be in the field. You'd be fired in a hurry by the farmer.
- Rather, plowmen fix their eyes on a point at the far end of the field and move steadily toward it, not veering to the right side or to the left.
- **Plowing crooked lines is being a detriment to the job...you waste field!.....**if you are plowing, you've made a crooked furrow and that means that you have to keep making crooked furrows to match.
- In other words, you've made a total mess of the field.

The point here is that if you have already thought it through to follow Jesus begin to serve but if continue to agonize over it, the opportunity will pass and you will have many regrets.

This is the thing ... What these men did not know at the time was Jesus is about to send Seventy two of his followers to go from village to village to carry the message of the Kingdom (10:1-

NLT LK 10:1 10 The Lord now chose seventy-two other disciples and sent them ahead in pairs to all the towns and places he planned to visit. All three guys missed out on the adventure of their life!!

- *This is what following Jesus is all about... you will embark upon an incredible journey...But you need to follow now!*
- *What can stop us? Securing your future first..... Competing loyalties... trying to please two masters...procrastination so we don't begin...*

end

- As Jesus leads us we will travel farther and higher than we thought possible... we will be stretched in ways that make us uncomfortable; we will meet traveling companions we never thought we would and grow to love them like we never thought we could..., we will experience more adventure, experience the highest highs, overcome more challenges, endure more heartaches, have a life of purpose...beyond what we know now! And we will realize that no matter how much we have learned there is much more to learn..
- We embrace the reality that what ever terrain I am traversing ...I will make it through... and when it looks like the end of the road...it's only a bend a bend in the road...that there is always farther to go, more to grow, the cost to follow Jesus is well worth it!!

Matt 6:19 “Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

end

You go and share there is more to life than just the accumulation of stuff, people pleasing others...seeking pleasure to minimize pain...which this man knew much about! there is a God who loves you and will change your life...give you a greater purpose...

wanted to relate to them...and they could sense that...I believe when someone talked to him...he intently listened and looked at them eye to eye...people knew he really did care...how often do we speak to people ...and look right past them or around them...distracted by our own thoughts, or feeling interrupted because we have something else on our mind. Jesus had to be busier than any of us...but people were his priority...he really liked them!! And they knew it...and many followed him.

end

- As they are not included in the 72...

NLT LK 10:1 **10** The Lord now chose seventy-two^a other disciples and sent them ahead in pairs to all the towns and places he planned to visit.

Normally, we speak about following in the footsteps of Jesus. Immediately the roles are reversed.. .The 72 disciples are sent out ahead of Jesus to prepare His way.

He wants their destinations to be set by their on dreams, goals, passions, and inner stirrings. **Peter and Andrew were fishermen so maybe they would head for the fish markets and coastal communities. Matthew was a tax collector for the Romans so perhaps he might head for the Roman communities and military postings.** In any case they were going where God was showing their dreams and aspirations for the Kingdom of God here on earth.

More importantly Jesus was telling them to go! 20 years from now I would hate for any of us to say with regret..... ‘Why didn’t I go?’”

What if Simon turned to Jesus and said, “If they want to go that’s o.k. but, I think I will just stay here with you Jesus where I know that it is safe.” Jesus would be like, “I am offering you the riches of life in its fullness and wonderment. Why would you just want to stay here and settle for the scraps? Nevertheless, the Kingdom of God has come near.”

Don’t miss the boat! Don’t recognize the call to move in upon your calling, your dreams, your hopes for a better future, a better you and not act upon it! Listen closely to that inner voice and when Jesus says go, then go!

This is what following Jesus is all about... you will embark upon an incredible journey...

As Jesus leads us we will travel farther and higher than we thought possible... we will be stretched in ways that make us uncomfortable; we will meet traveling companions we never thought we would and grow to love them like we never thought we could..., we will experience more adventure, overcome more challenges, we will realize

that no matter how much we have learned there is much more to learn..

We embrace the reality that what ever terrain I am traversing ...I will make it through... and when it looks like the end of the road...it's only a bend a bend in the road...that there is always farther to go, more to grow, and better to come, and most importantly arrival comes at the end and only our leader knows when that is.

² He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. ³ Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.

I believe Jesus was not only describing the toughness of the situation when he described it as lambs going among wolves, he was giving them the spiritual posture he wanted them to assume. They were not to go with a plan of attack like a pack of wolves, but in a spirit of love, humility and peace. Gentle as a lamb..

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks were masters at going out as lambs among the wolves. Their peaceful resistance to the unjust "Jim Crow" laws of segregation serve as examples to all of us. These leaders were master students of the Bible, and their activities sprang from their faith in God...and belief that love conquers everything even our fear...

What is God calling you to approach with the spirit of a lamb...when surrounded by wolves...I will tell you this...

If you go God will show a new world to you.

If you go God will build great character in you.

If you go God will show changed lives because of you.

If you go God will produce miracles to sustain you.

If you go God will show a New You, you never thought existed...!

He say to us today come and ride on my shoulders and face your incredible destiny...and we balk...yet that is what some do...but today we witnessed seventy two who did not...and as they were sent out by Jesus embarked on the incredible life changing journey of their lives...

end

We learn by our own experiences and we can learn from others experiences....

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- **To "put your hand to the plow" means to begin the task of plowing.** The Greek verb tenses underline the point. Literally, "No man, having put (Aorist tense, past complete action) his hand to the plough, and looking back (Present tense, continuous action), is fit for the kingdom of God" (9:62, KJV).

- Because God has a unquenchable Love for you...it transforms the ordinary into the extraordinary!

That is exactly what drew people to Jesus...he really loves them and they feel it... so much that some people wanted to follow him...but Jesus who a truth teller... he welcomed them but told them the truth about what they were thinking about embarking upon...

Jesus was honest with everyone. He didn't woo potential followers with sugar-coated promises of how easy their lives would be if they believed in him. He told them right up front about the cost and rewards of following him.

It is no different with Jesus and his disciples....In today's passage, Jesus' goal is to wave off those who would follow but be unwilling to pay the cost of doing so. He isn't being harsh – he is being real...

And that is what we will examine today...courage to step out and into where Jesus is leading you ...And doing that will take lots of courage...

The disciples are discovering there is a **Cost to Follow Jesus**

⁵⁷ As they were walking along, someone said to Jesus, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸ But Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head."

- The biggest enemy to calling is security
- What is required LOYALTY...to the person Jesus...not leaning on our own understanding of setting boundaries on that following part...

⁵⁹ He said to another person, "Come, follow me." The man agreed, but he said, "Lord, first let me return home and bury my father." ⁶⁰ But Jesus told him, "Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead!▯ Your duty is to go and preach about the Kingdom of God."

- What is required Obedience...What is required Commitment to the Cause

⁶¹ Another said, "Yes, Lord, I will follow you, but first let me say good-bye to my family."

⁶² But Jesus told him, "Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God."

- What is required Perseverance

- the cost of following Jesus (57-62). In order to follow Jesus we must commit our security problem to God. Look at verse 57. "As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.'"

- The man wanted to follow Jesus at heart and become a great man of God. How did Jesus reply?
- Look at verse 58. "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."
- In light of Jesus' words, this man wanted to establish his future security first, and then do the work of God.
- Such people look ideal, but in the end they become like tax collectors.
- When we want to follow Jesus, we must first decide to commit our future security problem to God's hand by believing his promise. **Matthew 6:33 says, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."**

In order to follow Jesus, we must give first priority to Jesus.

Look at verse 59. "He said to another man, 'Follow me.' But the man replied, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.'" He wanted to finish his family responsibilities first, and then obey Jesus' calling.

- We are not even sure that his father was then dead. But this man seems to have been one of Confucius' disciples who had learned that a funeral service was gravely important.
- His priority was on his family affairs. Suppose by the time he buried his father, he would have many children to send to college and support until they could graduate with honors.
- For him, there were so many important things in the world which demanded first priority.

If we want to follow Jesus, we must give first priority to God.

- In order to follow Jesus we must make a decision of faith. Look at verse 61. "Still another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-by to my family.'"

He was a person who wanted to follow Jesus and Nick at the same time. His problem was that he had never made a decision of faith. In order to follow Jesus we must make a decision of faith and renew it every day.

Look at verse 62. "Jesus replied, 'No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.'"

Here, Jesus does not acquiesce to our indecisiveness. The privilege and seriousness of following Christ are of such tremendous magnitude that there is no room for indecisive people.

May God help us accept the humbleness of Jesus and be a truly great man in the kingdom of God.

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This man proclaimed a decision to follow Jesus *I will follow you anywhere ...* **but Jesus knew his heart...and spoke loving truth to him...** *if you follow me...your security is in me...period*

- (there and I dealt with this...letter to God)
- Jesus tells him the only security you have is in Him...not not in what you possess or don't possess....
- **When we want to follow Jesus, we must first decide to commit our future security problem to God's hand...and then for the rest of our lives keep forcing ourselves to leave it there...**

you want to fully participate? write a letter to God...entrusting him with your service for His Security...

We pick up on verse 59 of Luke Chapter 9 ...Jesus asked people to follow him...

LK 9:59 He said to another man, "Follow me." But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

I cannot think of a greater honor or show of love or expression of acceptance than for God in the flesh to ask a person to follow him, the fact that he would bid anyone to come be with him is quite astonishing.

- A person would feel significant in His presence. The only thing more astonishing than Jesus great estimation of a person's worth and his desire to include them is their low esteem of him to procrastinate or reject the offer...amazing.

Jesus tells this man to follow him...he replies I will... then adds a "But First"... I want to follow you but there is a FIRST before you! ...

- **He had an image of Jesus in his mind...that did not fit the real Jesus...**
- **apparently he thought Jesus was reasonable and predictable!**

- **He possessed a false image of Jesus...and I think we all do...He thought he could follow Jesus but dictate the timing of His obedience to follow, I do not have time to follow you...yet...I really want to...but not right now...**
- Let me wait until my father dies at some future time, take care of his business and then meet up with you
- This man's father is not dead...Now if the man's father has just died, the man would not be hanging around Jesus? He should be home making funeral arrangements! I
- t's obvious that **his father isn't dead** -- yet. Most likely not even seriously ill, **or the man would be asking Jesus for healing.**
- What the man is saying is this: I have responsibilities to my father as long as he lives. I'm not free to follow you right now. But when my dad dies -- and he is getting on in years -- then I'll follow you right away. I just can't follow now.
- Jesus found him and He had Jesus ...But He was about to lose Jesus

Jesus responds... *LK 9:60 Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."*

- **He now has to rethink Jesus....Jesus was not concerned with what he was concerned about... ..but was concerned with what he wanted him to do...and in no-uncertain terms, even stating that what he wanted to do was dead...that its time was expired.....**
- **He was to move on into Kingdom work...**
- **The dead put family, business, social, and other responsibilities BEFORE their responsibilities to Jesus.**
- **But the spiritually alive are to follow -- NOW!**
- **On the human level...Speaking the truth to his family that he was changing professions was a scary thing to this man and like many of us we put it off...surely Jesus understood the magnitude...**
- **You aren't to choose when you are to follow. Today is the day. Following Jesus is a NOW thing. It is immediate.**
- His other commitments keep him from doing Jesus' immediate will for his life. Commitment to Jesus must come first...
- Jesus does not want this man to miss the opportunity of his life time...They are no longer able to be recaptured....
- They are gone, and they are dead; but they are not buried, and we continue to be plagued by regret and doubt.

Bottom line...

Jesus did not say follow me or return to a horrible way of life...he says lukewarm service or half hearted following ...(I want to follow but can't make up my mind when) is no service at all.

Willingness to do what Jesus asks... without doing it..is the same as not doing it... not doing it.

Jesus said I want you to go and proclaim good news to people...not hang out with that which is dead in your life...

Coaching football...trying to catch the ball...is not catching the ball

What this man did not know at the time was Jesus is about to send Seventy two of his followers to go from village to village to carry the message of the Kingdom (10:1-24).

- Jesus needs this man ready and committed to be in a certain place at a certain time, even though Jesus hasn't announced the mission yet. But the man can't be counted on.

LK 9:61 Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family." LK 9:62 Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.

- This appears to be a harsh response, All the man wanted to do was go home and say good-bye. That's all.
- What's so wrong with that?
- In light of the immediate mission ahead -- the sending out of the Seventy two to the villages of Judea -- for the man to go home will mean that he will miss out, though his request seems reasonable enough.
- This man said, "I will follow you Jesus, but..." There are many people who say I will follow Jesus but...
- This man wanted to have a farewell ceremony with his family. Then he wanted to watch his favorite TV show one more time, and go shopping at his favorite store, and so on.
- It refers to a life with a divided heart.

Jesus challenged his motives....Jesus has the ability to challenge with kindness...

LK 9:62 Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.

- The Greek verb To "put your hand to the plow" means to begin the task of plowing. tenses underline the point. Literally, "No man, having put (Aorist tense, past complete action) his hand to the plough, and looking back (Present tense, continuous action), is fit for the kingdom of God" (9:62, KJV).
- The key word here is Service....
- whether your plow is pulled by a mule or work horses or a diesel tractor there is one no-no:
- You never try to plow while looking over your shoulder. If you do, your rows are crooked and your field is difficult to work.

- If you try to plow while looking back, you're not fit to be in the field. You'd be fired in a hurry by the farmer. Plowing crooked lines is being a detriment to the job...you lose lines the field will not produce as much as it could...
- Rather, plowmen fix their eyes on a point at the far end of the field and move steadily toward it, not veering to the right side or to the left.
- Jesus isn't saying you can't glance back. But he is saying you can't continue to look back once you've begun to plow. If you do, you're not "fit," suitable, usable, convenient for something."
- In other words, you've made a total mess of the field. A person who plows has to keep his eyes straight ahead or he'll botch the job.
- **The point here is that if you have already thought it through and you know the right thing to do because it is obvious, but you continue to agonize over it, the opportunity will pass and you will have many regrets.**
- You should think things out carefully, and you should not make rash decisions you might regret later on. However, as soon as you have thought it out and have decided for the Kingdom of God, you have put your hand on the plow. Do not second-guess yourself into paralysis. If you look back, you'll just mess the whole thing up.
- **The thing to do is the right thing and the time to do it is now.** Second-guessing yourself when the path is clear only defeats you.

My question to us...**What are you possibly doing that could be more important right now than doing immediately that the Lord has been asking you to do????**

Look at what happens next!!!

LK 10:1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.

Normally, we speak about following in the footsteps of Jesus. Immediately the roles are reversed...The 72 disciples are sent out ahead of Jesus to prepare His way.

He wants their destinations to be set by their own dreams, goals, passions, and inner stirrings.

Peter and Andrew were fishermen so maybe they would head for the fish markets and coastal communities. Matthew was a tax collector for the Romans so perhaps he might head for the Roman communities and military postings. In any case they were going where God was showing their dreams and aspirations for the Kingdom of God here on earth.

More importantly Jesus was telling them to go! 20 years from now I would hate for any of us to say with regret.....‘Why didn’t I go?’”

Don't miss the boat! Don't recognize the call to move in upon your calling, your dreams, your hopes for a better future, a better you and not act upon it! Listen closely to that inner voice and when Jesus says go, then go!

This is what following Jesus is all about... you will embark upon an incredible journey...their task of entering every city and place where Jesus desires to come. We have the same call

Jesus follows in our footsteps, too. Many of the people we encounter along life's path may never get to meet Jesus, if they are not first attracted by our example. Our lifestyle, values and beliefs must be in accord with Jesus' message.

What is God calling you to approach with the spirit of a lamb...when surrounded by wolves...I will tell you this...

If you go God will show a new world to you....If you go God will build great character in you.

If you go God will show changed lives because of you....If you go God will produce miracles to sustain you.

You will be crushed like a rose whose fragrance fills the air you will know a God who won't be an image of your own making...But you will experience the Real God, you will know the real Jesus you will give the real Jesus...and that Is attractive to a world in need of the real God! End

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LK 10:1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.

- Following Jesus gets real...really quick... the first thing they are confronted with is a mission... when you are with Jesus ...there is going to be change...
- For those of us who were once bored with religion...it was because you were in relationship with a religion...religion like all man made things get stagnant after a while...there is no life for it is a thing...
- All new things become boring after a while ...School vacation ...look forward to it for most of the school year...once it happened ...three weeks into it were bored...
- Relationship with people or living beings always involves change...and especially with Jesus...in fact constant change is here to stay with Jesus...it was the first message I ever gave at this church..
- In fact Change is the only constant in this life...
- Once commitment is made the journey begins... they start to live their dream...but like all dreams at the beginning we do not know where it is going or how it will end...
- But with Jesus we know one thing it will not be a nightmare...but it will definitely be scary but will have a very successful ending...in the end we win

- so Jesus sends them out with nothing so that they learn the first lesson in serving Jesus ... extremely important to be internalized... You and Jesus is really overkill...or more than enough for any situation.. ...tough lesson!!

² He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field..."

- interestingly Jesus said pray for workers not harvest...it is far easier to pray for the harvest than get in the mix of harvesting.....
- When we pray what God wants ...we always get it... when you pray lord help me to love others...that is always his will...so you will get it...
- The first thing you will get in that is change because we are by nature selfish...expect change...

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And in his writing in Chapter 9 of his Gospel he recounts the event of...Seventy two people who had made the decision to follow Jesus ...and that Jesus had determined they were ready for their first assignment...or first chance to live out the decision and in a very real way..

Just like your decision to follow Jesus will lead to living life a very different way....

- They wanted something different for their lives.... And God was going to give it to them...but they would need to fully participate...
- I want to speak of dreams for a moment.... Dreams... we all have them...some might not have identified them yet..but we all have them...
- May I suggest the highest dream you could ever aspire too...follow Jesus...
- You will find your life and your dream...but change must occur...and that really means something must die for something new to begin...

When People have follow Jesus that means they cannot follow themselves any longer... that is the adventure...then and now... this passage will give us some valuable understanding of what it means to step out in what you believe God would have you do and actually accomplish more than you could ever imagine..

LK 10:1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.

- **Following Jesus gets real...really quick... the first thing they are confronted with is a mission... when you are with Jesus ...there is going to be change...**

- we might think that following Jesus means he always goes first...but sometimes he send us out before him....
- His mission becomes your mission...and his mission is to reconcile the world to himself...you will have a role in that...
- **Once commitment is made the journey begins... they start to live their dream...but like all dreams at the beginning we do not know where it is going or how it will end...**
- **But with Jesus we know one thing it will not end in a nightmare ...but it will definitely be scary ... but it will have a very successful ending...in ... the end we win...the harvest is plentiful...**

² *He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field..."*

- **Lesson one... Jesus already has the plan... before Jesus gives us His plan before we even know there is a plan...**
- **and you are to ask him to send workers into the Harvest...you know what that means?**
- **when you ask him to do that ...you will be the answer...**