

June 28, 2015

ENCOUNTERING CHRIST
Dealing With the Call of Christ
Matthew 4:12-22

Life is full of encounters. An encounter can be a chance meeting, a planned gathering, a spontaneous celebration, or a tragic accident. But every encounter leaves some form or impression. Whatever the circumstances surrounding the encounter, there will be some sort of impact on the persons involved. So it is when we encounter Christ Jesus. The Savior leaves His imprint on all who encounter Him. As we examine from the scriptures various encounters people had with Jesus, we must allow the Holy Spirit to leave the imprint of the Savior on our lives as He did then.

1. **Jesus confronts us with His message.**

“From that time on Jesus began to preach, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.’” **Matthew 4:17 (NIV)**

“Don’t misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to fulfill them.” **Matthew 5:17 (NLT)**

“We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” **John 1:14 (NIV)**

2. **Jesus comes to us right where we are.**

“As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.”
Matthew 4:18 (NIV)

“So the Word became human and lived here on earth among us.”

John 1:14 (NLT)

“When Jesus got to the tree, He looked up and said, ‘Zacchaeus, hurry down. Today is My day to be a guest in your home.’”

Luke 19:5 (The Message)

3. **Jesus calls us to live in the rhythm of His life.**

“‘Come, follow Me,’ Jesus said...” **Matthew 4:19 (NIV)**

“Then Jesus said, ‘Come to Me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you. Let Me teach you, because I am humble and gentle, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke fits perfectly, and the burden I give you is light.’” **Matthew 11:28-30 (NLT)**

“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed.”
Mark 1:35 (NIV)

“I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by Himself; He can do only what He sees His Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.” **John 5:19 (NIV)**

4. **Jesus calls us to His greater purpose.**

“...and I will make you fishers of men.” **Matthew 4:19 (NIV)**

“Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave--just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” **Matthew 20:26-28 (NIV)**

“The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give life in all its fullness.” **John 10:10 (NLT)**

5. **Jesus calls us to live in His new identity.**

“...and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed Him.” **Matthew 4:22 (NIV)**

“You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.” **1 Peter 2:9 (NIV)**