

March 13, 2016

Living God's Great Adventure **Matthew 4:17-22**

When Jesus called His disciples to follow Him, He did not invite them to some boring way of living. The invitation given to those ordinary fishermen was a challenge to join the Nazarene into an extraordinary life – an adventure like they had never known. Jesus calls us to the same journey of faith. The purpose of the church, those who have chosen to follow Jesus, is not to promote a religious system. The mission is to boldly follow Jesus to fulfill God's plan of transforming and restoring a broken and hurting world back into fellowship with Him. The church is called to help people experience the forgiving grace of God that frees them from the pain of sin and sets them on a path of true life. Let's answer the call of Jesus and follow Him into God's great adventure. Here's how.

1. Get a picture of God's great kingdom!

"From that time on Jesus began to preach, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.'" Matthew 4:17 (NIV)

"Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven."

Matthew 6:9-10 (NASB)

2. Let Jesus meet you right where you 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)

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)

3. Make knowing and following Jesus your greatest desire!

"'Come, follow Me,' Jesus said, 'and I will make you fishers of men. At once they left their nets and followed Him.'" Matthew 4:19-20 (NIV)

Matthew 4:19-20 (NIV)

"And this is the real and eternal life: That they know You, the one and only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You sent." John 17:3 (Msg)

“What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him...” **Philippians 3:8-9 (NIV)**

4. Be ready for Jesus to stretch you, change you, and use you!

“Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed Him.”

Matthew 4:21-22 (NIV)

“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” **Matthew 28:19-20**