

The Calling Matt 4:19

**SLIDE 1**

**Prayer**

**INTRODUCTION**

This week we continue with series “Complete in Christ”, last week Dave spoke on the Mission that Jesus gave us, next week Christian will speak on Abiding in Christ and today I will be looking at the Calling that Jesus has given us.

Many men have helped me grow spiritually over the last Thirty-six years When I was a young Christian, I went to my pastor A.T Randolph and asked for some books to read, I really don’t remember what topic I was trying to learn, but as he gave me a couple of books-

but he added some wise advice make sure that the Bible is your focus, not other books. He instilled in me a core principle of following Jesus that I carry to this day.

Ron Hamiton - met with me every week, let me preach, gave me leadership responsibility as a young man.

Rick Leinweber- taught me How to handle God’s word, a love for digging deep, taught me everything I know about groups and showed me how to develop leaders, and really introduced me to what discipleship was all about.

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Dave- I have been at this church for over 16 years, serving alongside Dave as both an Elder and now as a staff member. I can't express how much I have learned from him; he is always open and honest with me.

From early in my walk with Jesus I have been blessed with some men that have helped me in my faith and helped me grow spiritually. Not only by teaching me but they spent time in Relationship with me.

Now Last week Dave started with the overriding verse for this sermon series Colossians 1:28 and that is where we are going to start today.

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*28 "We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ."*

Last week in summarizing Paul, Dave said "We teach Jesus with the wisdom He provides. That is the only way to reach the goal of presenting to God every person under our care to be complete in Christ"

Complete in Christ- That's the goal of discipleship, helping people become complete or mature in Christ through the power of Jesus.

Helping them step by step through spiritual growth: from spiritually dead, to a spiritual infant, to a spiritual child, to a spiritual young adult, to a spiritual parent.

Presenting them Mature in their faith and reproducing that maturity in others.

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Now I want us to take a look at the next verse, in verse 29 Paul goes on to say

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*29 For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.*

Labor:

I love the image that Paul gives us

- “I labor” a word denoting wearisome toil
- “I exert all my strength.” To feel fatigue, to work hard, to be wearied

Striving:

- Sometimes translated “Struggling” we get our word “**agonize**” A term from the athletics, it signifies **intense exertion**

Although that can sound like it is all our own effort, it is not, because Paul says that his labor and striving are all :

*“According to His Power, which mightily works within me”*

This labor, this striving, Paul says is according to Jesus’ power.

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That is to say the labor and striving is not done through our own natural powers, but by the supernatural power at work in us.

**The entire statement shows that God does not want passive followers**

but through faith in Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit we can link our life with a source of strength that enables us to rise above our natural limitations to help others grow spiritually.

The Great Calling: Matt 4:18-22

So in last week's message we started with the end in mind.

Dave talked about the Mission that Jesus gave us to Make Disciples, **but that leads us to this question:** What does it mean to be a disciple? And that is what we will be focusing on today.

We are going to look at Matthew 4:18-22 today to help us with the definition of what it is to be a disciple of Jesus.

**SLIDE 4**

Matthew 4:18–22 (NASB95)

*18 Now as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. 19 And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."*

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*20 Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. 21 Going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.*

We are going to focus on the 19th verse to help us understand what Jesus is calling us to when He said to “Make Disciples”

**SLIDE 6**

There are 3 points that we are going to look at today and then we will unpack them together.

A disciple is someone who FOLLOWS Jesus,

**SLIDE 7**

A disciple is someone who is CHANGED by Jesus

**SLIDE 8**

A disciple is ON MISSION with Jesus

**SLIDE 9**

## **Jesus said “follow me”**

1st Point: A Disciple..... FOLLOWS JESUS.

If you are here today and don't know Jesus and have not yet decided to follow Him. I hope that today is the day you see that He is the only

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answer to our sin. That only through Him do we have eternal life and the power to live a life for God.

But as believers in Jesus, we need to understand that this call to Follow Him is more than just at the moment of salvation but that we spend the rest of our lives getting to know Him better and better and learning to follow Him closer and closer. It should be a never-ending journey. We are never done growing spiritually.

Last week we looked at the directive that Jesus gave us to Make Disciples and one of the ways that Jesus said we make disciples in that passage was by **teaching them “to observe all that I commanded you”**

This is not a “you better be obedient” or there will be consequences. Instead, it is about a transformation that occurs in us, in who we are and that changes us to be imitators of Christ.

In 1 Corinthians 11:1

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Paul tells the Corinthians to imitate him, just as he imitates Christ, I think we take this wrong sometimes.

Paul is not saying just do what I do because I just do what Jesus did.

That is kind of like WWJD movement, which really teaches us to do the actions that I think Jesus would do,

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but Paul is referring not just to a imitation of action,

here he is pointing back to the end of the previous chapter, where he talks about “doing all for the glory of God” and “thinking of the good of others”

This is what Jesus did, this is what Paul did, and this is what we are to mature into, a follower of Jesus who is more God-centered and others-centered instead of being self-centered.

### **1A: Being Spiritually mature is being others centered, and God centered**

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During His earthly ministry Jesus called his disciples to physically follow Him, as Dave mentioned last week, we don't see that word after the book of Acts.

But what we do see Starting with Jesus is a transition from the physical following of Him that the disciples experienced to the following of the Spirit.

Let's take a look at a few verses that show us this

SLIDE 12

In the Gospels Jesus talks about following Him  
John 8:12

*12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “**I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.**”*

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John 10:27

**27 “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;**

Matthew 16:24

**24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.**

These are hard verses to take if we take them to mean “I have to do this” on my own. I can’t imagine what the disciples were thinking as they heard these statements.

But then Jesus makes the transition from physically following Him to what it would look like in the coming church age by talking about the role the Holy Spirit plays

John 16:13

**13 “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.**

John 14:16–17

**16 “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.**

And we see this played out in Acts

Acts 10:19-20 – **The Spirit Guides Peter:** “While Peter was reflecting on the vision, the Spirit said to him, ‘Behold, three men are looking for you. But get up, go downstairs and accompany them without misgivings, for I have sent them Myself.’”



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Acts 13:2-4 – **The Spirit Calls Barnabas and Saul** (Paul): *“While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ ... So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia...”*

Acts 16:6-7 – **The Spirit Redirects Paul’s Mission**: *“They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them.”*

Acts 20:22-23 – **The Spirit Compels Paul**: *“And now, behold, bound by the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me.”*

Paul then expounds on this teaching of Jesus

Romans 8:14

**14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.**

Galatians 5:16

**16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.**

Galatians 5:25

**25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.**

**1B: The Spirit abiding in us is how we follow Jesus**

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The Spirit that indwells us will lead and empower us to live according to God's will. Now for us in the church age following the Spirit and abiding in Jesus is how we now follow Him, He lives in us.

**Jesus said "I will make"**

**2nd Point: A Disciple.....is being CHANGED BY JESUS.**

**SLIDE 14**

The first change in our spiritual journey occurs at salvation, we become "born again" and we become a new creature....Paul says in 2 cor 5:17

***17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.***

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a disciple is one who is being changed by Jesus. Jesus is making us into someone different. He changes hearts, which means our attitudes and priorities begin to shift.

This kind of change is supernatural and is evidenced by a love for God and for people.

But this change in our life, this growing in maturity should not be burdensome, it is Jesus and The Spirit that is doing the changing and producing the fruit

Jesus said in Matthew 11:28-30

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*“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, 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.”*

Jesus invites those burdened by sin or religious legalism to come to Him for relief, offering a new way of life through following Him.

As we live out the life God desires for us and we accept his call to make disciples, this should flow out of us because we are abiding with Him.

If following Jesus is burdensome, we are doing it wrong. We are doing it under our own power not His.

Change is not only something that happens only salvation, but Jesus wants to continue to change us. This is spiritual growth, and it is something that should always be happening in the life of a follower of Jesus.

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And this is not just about knowing the Bible more or serving more. You can know a lot and serve a lot and still not be spiritually mature.

Dave last week when he was talking about growing more mature in Christ

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“The more a person matures in Christ, the more those around him are influenced toward Christ. It’s the natural result of living out Christ in this new identity.” -Dave Roberts

As we continue to mature in Christ and grow more and more like Him, we influence those that we are helping to disciple,

we are helping people move one step closer to Jesus, we are there to be in relationship with them, help answer questions for them, encourage them, invite them along as we do ministry,

but remember it is Jesus through the Spirit, who actually does the changing. This all occurs in real relationships. Our relationships with each other and our relationship with God.

I remember a time many, many years ago, I was given a Spiritual Maturity Assessment. It asked questions like how frequently I read the Bible, frequency of my prayer life and I to pick out of 5 choices, then after about 30 questions I add up my answers and I got a numeric score that showed my spiritual maturity level.

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**This is a terrible idea!** It equates spiritual maturity with doing certain activities like How much I know about the Bible, or I have certain behaviors under control.

**So how do we measure Spiritual Maturity?** Well, it is really hard to measure because it is not about outward activities but a change of who we are inside through Christ.

Next week Christian will talk about John 15 and the Abiding life: Spoiler as we grow as a branch connected to the vine that is Jesus, we Mature and produce fruit.

**And that's the goal of discipleship:** Spiritual change as evidenced by The Fruit of the Spirit

Paul gives us a list of the fruit of the Spirit, notice how these are all outwardly focused on God and others.

**SLIDE 17**

Galatians 5:22–25

(NASB95)

*22 But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control**; against such things there is no law. 24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 **If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.***

I want to spend a little time just on one of these, LOVE

The noun Agape appears 116 times in the Greek New Testament while the verb form agapao appears 142 times

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Here are just a few examples:

You shall love your neighbor

Love your enemies

Love your neighbor as yourself

love the Lord your God with all your heart

Love one another

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love

**How do I love my neighbor?** Is it by doing something for them? Not really, I can take a meal to a neighbor because I feel as a Christian, I should do that,

No, real love of a mature Christian is a motivation that comes from the abiding presence of Christ in me. It is who I am. The Action alone is not LOVE, Love comes from Christ, and the action is the result of that Love.

That is how Love is lived out in a mature follower of Jesus, and the same holds true for the other characteristics that Paul lists there.

When we talk about living out this changed heart that Jesus gives us. I think about what Jesus spoke about In Matt 25 when talking about the Judgement.

It states that He will separate people like sheep from goats. The righteous, placed on His right, will inherit the kingdom and he lists their acts of kindness—feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, welcoming strangers, clothing the naked, and visiting the sick and imprisoned—done as if to Jesus Himself. The unrighteous, on His left, will face eternal punishment and He lists their failing to help the least of His brothers, as if neglecting Jesus Himself.

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But here is the interesting thing about this passage, Jesus is NOT saying that the action taken are what gets you into heaven but that those He knows, His followers, the righteous have lived out those actions.

D.A Carson states

“True disciples will love one another and serve the least brother with compassion; in so doing they unconsciously serve Christ. Those who have little sympathy for the gospel of the kingdom will remain indifferent and, in so doing, reject King Messiah”

Zumstein (p. 348) the surprise of the righteous makes it impossible to think that works of righteousness win salvation. How the sheep and the goats treated Jesus’ brothers was not for the purpose of being accepted or rejected by the King. The sheep did not show love to gain “some” reward

**2A: Spiritual Growth is measured by Change on the inside not the outside**

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How do I know if I am maturing? Well one way is, are you living the Fruit of the Spirit in your relationship with God and Others. Is it something that keeps becoming more “natural” flowing of your changing heart

**Jesus said “I will make you fishers of men”**

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### **3<sup>rd</sup> Point: A Disciple.....is committed to the MISSION OF JESUS.**

This points back to the Great Commission that Dave spoke on last week, so I won't spend a lot of time on it but: **Jesus left a mission for each of us individually as well as a local church body.** This mission is for each of us and we are called to do our part in completing this mission.

This mission, originally given to the apostles was to continue to make disciples, not just get converts and grow the church numerically, but to help others grow spiritually and then to equip them to do the same.

Bill Hull a prolific author on discipleship, says this:

#### **SLIDE 20**

“Discipleship isn't a \_\_\_\_\_ program or an event; it's a way of life. It's not for a limited time, but for our whole life. Discipleship isn't for beginners alone; it's for all believers for every day of their life. Discipleship isn't just one of the things the church does; it is what the church does.”

### **A disciple is committed to the mission of Jesus.**

We want to serve God wherever He has placed us. We want to serve God with our abilities, gifts, and learned skills our experiences are all empowered by God and we are to be on mission of making disciples of those around us.



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### **Conclusion**

There is a connection between The Mission, The Calling, The Abiding for each of us. Each believer in Jesus is Called to FOLLOW Jesus, to be Changed by Jesus and to be on HIS Mission.

**SLIDE 21**

Greg Ogen in his book Discipleship Essentials says

“Disciples cannot be mass produced. We cannot drop people into a program and see disciples emerge at the end of the production line. It takes time to make disciples. It takes individual personal attention.”

Now it does NOT mean that we do have classes or teach how to make disciples (we are starting to have some classes on discipleship (plug A Disciples’ Journey next week during 2nd service in room 100

**SLIDE 22**

But really Discipleship that helps people follow, to be changed and to be on mission with Jesus is Relational. It takes time. It is not just passing along information.

Discipleship is painfully slow- but it is well worth it, and we are Called to it by Jesus

I started off this message talking about some of those who have helped me in my discipleship journey.

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And I now have the great joy of helping others mature in their faith  
There is no greater joy then doing the work that Jesus has given us and  
that He alone empowers us to do.

Let's Make Disciples together, all of us.

By walking along side, each other, helping each other grow spiritually

Following JESUS

helping each other be CHANGED BY JESUS

and to stay on the MISSION OF JESUS by MAKING DISCIPLES that can  
make disciples, that can make disciples until He returns

Let's Pray