

What God has led us through so far:

- Battle for Our Mind: (Ground Zero of enemy attacks)
- Physical vs Spiritual Sight: Learning to move each day from “How does this make me feel” (Physical) to “God, what do you want me to see?” (Spiritual)
- Relationship with God: Studying HIS side of the relationship, peeling back everything that doesn’t follow His blueprint of Genesis 1-3, and recognizing just how much HE wants this daily walking/talking, and how that changes our outlook.
- Discipleship: What true discipleship looks like (as defined by Jesus) and how it is the cornerstone and foundation for everything else we do in Christ; discipleship means full surrender; disciples desire to make other disciples. *Sacrificial surrender is yielding the outcome to Him even while we still have “options.”*

Premise: Discipleship is the cornerstone on which both our Relationship with God and our Headship at home is built.

- Discipleship defined broadly: a follower or student of a teacher, leader, or philosopher.
- Hebrew context: **Disciple** (active follower/student, zeal to learn/understand) **Rabbi** (teacher, instructor)
- Discipleship defined by Jesus, *perhaps another of Jesus’ “But I Say” moments?* **Luke 9:23:**  
**“If any man will be MY disciple, he MUST: Deny Himself Take up his cross Daily and Follow Me.”**  
 [ Qualifier ] [Requirement] [Selflessness] & [ SURRENDER ] & [Intentionality] & [OBEDIENT PURSUIT]

**Discipleship means to completely and wholly follow The Cause, for the Purpose of carrying it out.**

Matthew 4:20, “Immediately, they (Simon Peter and Andrew) left their nets and followed Him.” (In His Cause.)

V 22, “Immediately, they (James and John) left their father, boat, and nets and followed Him.” (In His Cause.)

❖ To become disciples of Jesus, we must follow Jesus. We are all in for the cause of Christ!

**What Cause can we say we are following today?**

Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure (time) is, there will your heart be also.

No matter what it is we treasure (place a premium value on), whether it’s our serving Him (time, talent, gifts, calling) or something in our daily life with a lot more temporal value and meaning, what our heart follows most likely is the CAUSE we are following.

*Q. Once we leave church campus and the fellowship of our brothers and sisters, does our Cause change?*

**Have we left our nets? Have we heard Him ask us to leave our nets?**

More than purely an occupational desertion, abandoning their fishing nets was the new disciples’ decision to count the Cause of Christ more important than everything else in their life, even their way of life, including their livelihood.

*Q. Is the cause of Christ our most important focus now?*

❖ Will we examine all areas of our lives and determine them to be less important than Kingdom work?

These early disciples still retained the knowledge of how and where to fish. They simply followed Christ’s direct commands to “leave it all” (or, shift His call for their life to the top priority). Nowhere in scripture does it say that while they walked with Jesus for 3 years, they were prevented from fishing. In fact, it’s possible they fished for food on a regular basis. Jesus’ call to “fish for men” simply meant that now THIS OCCUPATION should supersede in priority what they had been doing each day before.

Living as skilled fisherman was simply their occupation – based on their talents, that God would reshape into gifts. It was also where they spent the bulk of their time, pre-discipleship. Now, the order of **priority** would change.

**Talents / Gifts / Calling vs. Passion**

This brings us headfirst into an area that is often muddled, as these terms often parallel each other, but indeed have distinct definitions and applications.

**Talent** – a natural ability one possesses. (While people can refer to it as a “gift” this is actually meant as a “present”)

**Gift** – A God-given and assigned spiritual gift which God hones at our rebirth. There is an entire study we can go through which unfolds traits, needs, and objectives one strives for with different spiritual gifts.

**Calling** – our unique Kingdom assignment. The Kingdom work God seeks for us to take on, most often utilizing our talents and gifts as He has shaped us with. **Walking in our Calling will always give glory to God and NOT us.**

**Passion** – very frequently confused with Calling. We can have a tremendous love or passion for a specific ministry effort without it being our calling. Perhaps we care deeply about this ministry, and pray for it daily – which is wonderful and needed, but at the end of the day we may not have the aptitude, discipline or vision to labor in it like it needs. This is A-OK. The Kingdom needs people who are passionately supporting ministries they may not be called to lead or labor in. Common examples would be music or children’s ministries.

We should never let doubts cloud our confidence, however, if God IS clearly calling us to a ministry. It has been said that God does not always call the qualified, but He always qualifies who He calls!

**Leaving our Nets is Surrendering our Talents, Gifts and Calling**

❖ **Q. Are we surrendering our talents, gifts, and calling to Him?**      **Matthew 25: 14-30**

Jesus clears the air on just how significant HE views our surrender.

❖ **Q. Are we surrendering to Him in our talents, gifts, and calling?**      **1 Samuel 16**

Once we have identified and accepted our gifts/calling, we still need to surrender the timeline and application to Him.

❖ **Q. HOW are we surrendering to Him in our talents, gifts, and calling?**      **2 Corinthians 9:6-7 / Gen 4:2-15**

Our attitude in how we serve is just as important as our service itself. If our acts of service are buried in complaining or negativity, which is Jesus seeing?

**LUKE 9:23**

**“If any man will be MY disciple, he MUST: Deny Himself Take up his cross Daily and Follow Me.”**  
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