

Sermon--Based Discussion Questions

March 11th, 2018

ICE BREAKER

Talk about a major goal you've achieved in your life. When you first set that goal for yourself, did it feel unachievable? How did you go about pursuing it?

MESSAGE RECAP

In the message, Clay talked about the disciples following Jesus. Many of the disciples dropped everything they were doing and followed Jesus.

READ

Mark 1:16-20

Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

Matthew 9:9

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

DISCUSS

Have you ever met a Christian whose faith impressed and intimidated you? How did that person influence your view of Christianity? How did he or she influence your view of your own faith?

Ask yourself this question: Am I following Jesus? As you think about that question, think about "How" you are following Jesus? How would you describe your following of Jesus?

We see disciples, at times, hesitate to fully follow Jesus.

READ

Matthew 14: 29-33

He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Mark 14:54; 66-72

And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire.

And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus." But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you mean." And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed. And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean." But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know this man of whom you speak." And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

John 20:24-25

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

DISCUSS

What risks do you associate with following Jesus? How do those risks cause you to hesitate?

Based on where you are right now, what is your next step in following Jesus? What can this group do to support you?

Just like we talked about in the ICEBREAKER, what kind of goals can you set in following Jesus?

TAKING ACTION

Again, this is the way you'll close every session and this is the most important part of this study. Manage your time well and resist the temptation to cut this part short!

1. IDENTIFY -- Identify the things in your life that are hindering you from following Jesus. What's keeping you from taking that next step?
2. PRAYER -- Pray specifically for the Lord to guide you in handling those hindrances and give you feet to follow Him. Pray for a new heart and mind that's set on following Jesus in all areas of your life.
3. TAKE YOUR FIRST STEP -- List out what your first step will be to follow Jesus. List out what it will cost you to take that first step. What will you have to give up?
4. SHARE -- Talk with your group about what steps you plan on taking this week and the things it will cost you. Talk about how it will affect you and even your relationships.

CLOSING PRAYER

“God, give me a new heart and a new mind that is unashamed of who You are and what You have done for me. Help me deny myself, my desires, my glory, and give me the strength to follow You.