

FOLLOWING JESUS

Matthew 9:9 As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

John 1:43 The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."

Mark 10:21 And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."

Matthew 4:19 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

What He DIDN'T say...

Follow... your heart. Follow... whatever works for you.

Follow... that person. Follow... the rules.

THE DAY SIMON PETER GOT IT!

Luke 5:1-11 On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, **they left everything and followed him.**

OBSERVATIONS...

- That crowd wanted to hear Jesus speak the **WORD** of **God**.
- Helping **OTHERS** know The Truth was Jesus' way of life.
- Jesus reached people by "getting into their **BOAT**."
- Jesus loves giving people a **PURPOSE** for living.

WHAT SIMON PETER FIGURED OUT

1. Following Jesus **BEGINS** with allowing Jesus to "get into your boat."
2. We progress in Following Jesus through learning to **TRUST** and **OBEY** Him.
3. Following Jesus requires letting Him change the **FOCUS** of your **LIFE**.
4. Following Jesus means trusting Jesus to **ACCEPT** you and to **USE** you to help others... *despite your sins, flaws, and faults.*