

The Call to Follow the King

Brandon Phillips / General

The King and His Glory / Disciples; Calling / Mt 4:18–22
Jesus calls His first disciples

Pre-sermon Comments

Psalm 139:7–8 LSB

⁷ Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.

1 John 1:9 LSB

⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

We come to church to:

- Exalt God together with the saints.

Hebrews 10:24–25 LSB

²⁴ And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

- Hear God's word explained so that we can grow with respect to salvation.

1 Peter 2:2 LSB

² like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,

- Be equipped for the God's work in our family, church, and community.

Ephesians 4:12–13 LSB

¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ,

- We do these things so that we can go out and evangelize the lost

[2 Corinthians 5:18-21](#) (LSB) ¹⁸ Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their transgressions against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰ So then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as God is pleading through us. We beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

[Matthew 28:19-20](#) (LSB) ¹⁹ “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to keep all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Sermon Text

Matthew 4:18-22 LSB

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.” ²⁰ And immediately they left their nets and followed Him. ²¹ And 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 And immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

Introduction to our Text

Isaiah 45:22 LSB

²² “Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other.

The “layman” need never think of his humbler task as being inferior to that of his minister. Let every man abide in the calling wherein he is called and his work will be as sacred as the work of the ministry. **A. W. Tozer**

They were twelve perfectly ordinary, unexceptional men. **John F. MacArthur**

Proposition and Outline

In [Matthew 4:18-22](#), Matthew describes Jesus's call of His first disciples to follow Him. As we study this text, you must consider that His call is:

1. Personal ([Matt 4:18, 21](#))
2. Paradigm-shifting ([Matt 4:20, 22](#))
3. Purposeful ([Matt 4:19](#))
4. Powerful [effectual] ([Matt 4:20, 22](#))
5. Pressing ([Matt 4:20, 21](#))

You must Consider that His call is Personal! ([Matt 4:18, 21](#))

[Matthew 4:18](#) (LSB) 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.

The Various Phases of Jesus's Call of His disciples Explained

The First Phase of Jesus's Call

John 1:35-40 LSB

³⁵ On the next day, John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ And the two disciples heard him speak and followed Jesus. ³⁸ And when Jesus turned and noticed them following, He said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?" ³⁹ He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they came and saw where He was staying; and they stayed with Him that day. It was about the tenth hour. ⁴⁰ One of

the two who heard John *speak* and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

John 1:47–50 LSB

⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said about him, "Behold, truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸ Nathanael said to Him, "From where do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." ⁴⁹ Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel." ⁵⁰ Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You will see greater things than these."

The Second Phase of Jesus's Call

Matthew 4:19 LSB

¹⁹ And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

The Third Phase of Jesus's Call

[Luke 5:10](#) (LSB) ¹⁰ and James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon, *were* also likewise *amazed*. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men."

[Luke 5:11](#) (LSB) ¹¹ And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

The Fourth Phase of Jesus's Call

Mark 3:13–15 LSB

¹³ And He went up on the mountain and summoned those whom He Himself wanted, and they came to Him. ¹⁴ And He appointed twelve (whom He also named apostles) to be with Him and to send them out to preach, ¹⁵ and to have authority to cast out the demons.

Luke 6:12–16 LSB

¹² Now it happened that at this time He went off to the mountain to pray, and He was spending the whole night in prayer to God. ¹³ And when day came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them, whom He also named as apostles: ¹⁴ Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; and James and John; and Philip and Bartholomew; ¹⁵ and Matthew and Thomas;

James *the son* of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot; ¹⁶ Judas *the son* of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

The Fifth Phase of Jesus's Call

[Matthew 10:1](#) (LSB) ¹ And summoning His twelve disciples, Jesus gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

The Sixth Phase of Jesus's Call??

Acts 1:8-9 LSB

⁸ but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to THE END OF THE EARTH.” ⁹ And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

Jesus Called Them By Name

[Matthew 4:18](#) (LSB) 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.

Matthew 4:21 LSB

²¹ And 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.

[John 15:16](#) (LSB) ¹⁶ “You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would abide, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

[Ephesians 1:4](#) (LSB) ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him in love,

Genesis 12:1 LSB

¹ And Yahweh said to Abram, “Go forth from your land, And from your kin And from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you;

Exodus 3:4 LSB

⁴ And Yahweh saw that he turned aside to look, so God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.”

1 Samuel 16:12–13 LSB

¹² So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance. And Yahweh said, “Arise, anoint him, for this is he.” ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of Yahweh came mightily upon David from that day forward. And Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

Isaiah 6:8–9 LSB

⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I. Send me!” ⁹ He said, “Go, and tell this people: ‘Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not know.’”

Acts 9:4–6 LSB

⁴ and falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” ⁵ And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” And He *said*, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, ⁶ but rise up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do.”

[Luke 12:7](#) (LSB) ⁷ “Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.”

However deep the mystery, however many the paradoxes involved, it is still true that men become saints not at their own whim but by sovereign calling. ~

A. W. Tozer

[Isaiah 43:1](#) (LSB) ¹ But now, thus says Yahweh, your Creator, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel, “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!”

You must Consider that His call is Paradigm-shifting ([Matt 4:19](#))

[Matthew 4:19](#) (LSB) ¹⁹ And He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

Answering the Call Will Cost You Everything

Matthew 10:37 LSB

³⁷ “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

Matthew 10:38 LSB

³⁸ “And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

[Daniel 7:14](#) (LSB) ¹⁴ “And to Him was given dominion, Glory, and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations, and *men of every tongue* Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not be taken away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.”

Matthew 16:19 LSB

¹⁹ “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.”

[Matthew 16:21](#) (LSB) ²¹ From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.

[Matthew 16:22](#) (LSB) ²² And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “God forbid *it*, Lord! This shall never happen to You.”

[Matthew 16:23](#) (LSB) ²³ But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.”

Matthew 16:24–26 LSB

²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. ²⁵ “For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. ²⁶ “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

When Christ calls a man he bids him come and die. **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

I love the sweet words of the song, “I Surrender All”

All to Jesus, I surrender
All to Thee I freely give
I will ever love and trust You
In Your presence daily live

I surrender all, I surrender all
All to Thee, my blessed Savior
I surrender all

Answering the Call Will Change Your Direction in Life

Matthew 4:20 LSB

²⁰ And immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

Matthew 4:22 LSB

²² And immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

You must Consider that His call is Purposeful!

Answering the Call Will Change Your Focus in Life

[Matthew 4:19](#) (LSB) ¹⁹ And He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

John 21:3 LSB

³ Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will also come with you.” They went out and got into the boat; and that night they caught nothing.

Romans 1:16 LSB

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Luke 19:40 LSB

⁴⁰ But Jesus answered and said, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones will cry out!”

Numbers 22:28 LSB

²⁸ And Yahweh opened the mouth of the donkey, and it said to Balaam, “What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?”

[1 Corinthians 1:27–29](#) (LSB) ²⁷ But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, ²⁸ and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may abolish the things that are, ²⁹ so that no flesh may boast before God.

[Romans 10:15](#) (LSB) ¹⁵ And how will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, “HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!”

Matthew 28:19–20 LSB

¹⁹ “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to keep all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

[2 Corinthians 5:18–20](#) (LSB) ¹⁸ Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their transgressions against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰ So then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as God is pleading through us. We beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

For each one of us there is a special vocation in which we can follow Christ. I do not believe that all of you would be following him if you were to attempt to preach. Even Christ never attempted to do what his Father did not intend him to do. A man once asked him to officiate as a lawyer or judge, but he replied, “Who made me a judge or a divider over you?” One beauty of Christ’s life was that he kept to his calling and did not go beyond his commission. And you will be wise if you do the same. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

It has come to be a dreadfully common belief in the Christian Church that the only man who has a “call” is the man who devotes all his time to what is called “the ministry,” whereas all Christian service is ministry, and every Christian has a call to some kind of ministry or another. **Charles Spurgeon**

[2 Timothy 1:6](#) (LSB) ⁶ For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

I think the calling of a minister, a pastor, the greatest calling in the world. There is nothing I know of that is comparable to watching the Holy Spirit dealing with people, searching them, examining them, revealing truth to them, while you watch their growth and their development. ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones**

You must Consider that His call is Powerful [Effectual] ([Matt 4:20](#), [22](#))!

Matthew 4:20 LSB

²⁰ And immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

Matthew 4:22 LSB

²² And immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

Obedience is the end of our calling. ~ **John Calvin**

The call or calling of God is always effective: those who are called by God are truly saved. ~ **D. A. Carson**

Jesus does not merely stand knocking at the door of your heart. He blows the door off its hinges, enters, and says, You are Mine. ~ Steve Lawson

Ephesians 1:19 LSB

¹⁹ and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe according to the working of the might of His strength,

You must Consider that His call is Pressing ([Matt 4:20](#), [22](#)) [Conclusion]

[Matthew 4:20](#) (LSB) ²⁰ And immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

[Matthew 4:22](#) (LSB) ²² And immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

Luke 19:1-4 LSB

¹ And He entered Jericho and was passing through. ² And behold, there was a man called by the name of Zaccheus; he was a chief tax collector and he was rich. ³ And Zaccheus was trying to see who Jesus was, and was unable because of the crowd, for he was small in stature. ⁴ So he ran on before and climbed up into a sycamore tree in order to see Him, for He was about to pass through that way.

Luke 19:5-9 LSB

⁵ And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, “Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” ⁶ And he hurried and came down and received Him gladly. ⁷ And when they saw it, they all *began to* grumble, saying, “He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” ⁸ But Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, “Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have extorted anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much.” ⁹ And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham.

Luke 19:10 LSB

¹⁰ “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost.”

If the Holy Spirit has laid anything on your heart in the preaching of this sermon, please contact one of the leaders or speak to a mature Christian to answer your questions. I can be contacted at brandon.phillips@gracegainesville.org.