

**May 3 - Chapter 2. - Call: Good News for Us..In Spite of Us - p.37-56
Women**

Greeting: Introduce yourself to five different people with a fist bump

Community Building: Four Corners (**Fast Food** - 1-McDonalds, 2-Burger King, 3-KFC, 4-Pizza Hut
Coffee - 1-Dunkin Donuts, 2-Starbucks, 3-Marylou's, 4-Cumberland Farms **Grocery Store** 1-Stop and Shop, 2-Trader Joes, 3-BJs, 4-Market Basket **Gospel** - 1-Matthew, 2-Mark, 3-Luke, 4-John **Bible Character** - 1-Abigail, 2-Sarah, 3-Mary Magdalene, 4-Priscilla)

Chapter 2 Call Good News for Us ... In Spite of Us

If God has fit you to be a missionary, I would not have you shrivel down to be a king. Charles Spurgeon

First Reading: Looking at the gospel accounts carefully, we can see Jesus leading the disciples into two distinct phases of discipleship. Prior to leaving their boats to follow Jesus in Mark , the disciples believed in Him and got to know Him. In the book of John, the men spent time with Jesus. They went with Him to the wedding at Cana, they spent Passover with Him in Jerusalem, and they traveled with Him to witness John the Baptist's ministry. The first phase of discipleship we see is simply believing the gospel and being with Jesus. The second phase of discipleship is participation. This phase goes beyond mere belief; it requires actively going on mission. More than just being with Jesus, it's going with Jesus. When Jesus called the fishermen, and they left their boats to follow Him, their discipleship entered into its second phase. Often we refer to this activity as a person's "call" or "calling." We speak of God's calling on a particular person's life or the specific work or mission to which he or she has been called. The truth is that Jesus calls every Christian.

1. What are the two phases of discipleship? Describe what they might look like for someone living on Cape Cod in 2018?
2. What phase are you in?
3. Can you identify your specific calling in Christ? Are you fulfilling or failing in that call?

Second Reading: Therefore, when God calls us "chosen," it ought to yield in us a great humility because of the type of people God chooses. The New Testament says explicitly what the Old Testament illustrates wonderfully: For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; 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, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, so that no man may boast before God. As the people of God, chosen by God, called forth into mission with Christ, we must allow the Holy Spirit to work a deep humility into us. This begins with the simple understanding that God chooses, as it says in 1 Corinthians, the foolish things of the world.

4. What kind of people did God use in the Old Testament? Find an example, and what was their fault?
5. What kinds of people did God use in the New Testament? Find an example, and what was their fault?
6. What kind of people are we? Why should God choosing us and calling us to mission, in our condition lead to humility?

Third Reading: God doesn't always call the powerful, but the call itself is always powerful. When Jesus said, "Follow Me," the English translation doesn't do justice to the written Greek. In the original language, "Follow Me" is actually a three-word phrase amounting to these words: "Come here behind!"

He can use your life, your gifts, your talents, your occupation, your likes, and your preferences, even your flaws—the person He made you to be—to bear fruit for His kingdom.

God has chosen you to bear fruit for His glory in this world. The call of Christ is radical, and it requires a radical response. We see this with the fishermen-to-be-disciples in Mark 1. Immediately the men left everything to follow Jesus, and their lives were never the same. These guys faltered and failed, but their participation in Missio Christi changed the course of history.

7. Why is the call of God upon your life powerful?
8. Can you find an example in scripture when God took a faulty person, and used a small thing in their life to accomplish something powerful?
9. What does it mean to be radical for Jesus? What hinders us from being radically on mission with Jesus?

Fourth Reading: Jesus found His disciples as they worked, in the midst of their daily routines, and offered them the opportunity to live for something greater—the eternal salvation of the world. God is already at work around us, and He's calling. All we need are ears to hear Him and the obedience and faith to respond.

10. When you hear the calling of God upon your life, why does this lead to a crisis in your heart?
11. What is the call of Christ upon your life? Sometimes we can't answer that question until we've answered a different one: What is Christ calling you to leave behind?

Share with your spouse or a close friend in the Lord: What do you think Christ is calling you to do to be on mission? What dream, desire, pursuit, goal, activity, etc.. is Jesus calling you to give up to pursue your calling? Is there agreement between the two of you? What do you do if you agree? What do you do if you disagree? **Pray together.**

Next Week: May 10, p.57-78 Chapter 3. Sent: Who's to Judge? Men Only

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