AFTER CHURCH DEV

Topic: Follow Me - New Purpose

Opening Prayer:

"Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!" (Psalm 143:10). Lord, open our hearts to embrace Your call and surrender our lives to Your leading. Guide us to follow You with undivided devotion. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Read: Matthew 4:18-20

The call of Jesus to "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" is short yet profound, marking the beginning of the disciples' radical transformation. When Jesus approached Peter and Andrew, they were busy with their work as fishermen. This was their life, their identity, and their source of provision. Yet, when Jesus extended His invitation, they immediately left their nets and followed Him, showing that His call carried an authority and purpose unlike any they had known.

The Greek word used here for "follow" (ἀκολουθέω, akoloutheō) implies a continuous action, an ongoing journey of companionship with Jesus. The disciples weren't simply agreeing to walk with Jesus momentarily; they were embarking on a lifelong path of surrender. Their decision was not just to accompany Jesus physically but to reorient their lives to His mission and purpose. They would no longer fish for a livelihood but would join in the mission of drawing others into the kingdom of God.

This encounter calls us to examine our willingness to leave behind whatever holds us back from fully following Jesus. Like the disciples, we are invited to take on a new purpose—one that finds meaning not in earthly gain but in eternal value. Following Jesus might mean leaving behind comfort zones, shifting priorities, or even redefining what success looks like. It's a daily, intentional choice to keep walking with Him, aligning our lives with His kingdom work.

Conclusion:

The call to "Follow me" invites us into a journey of transformation, trading old purposes for new ones centered on Jesus. As we step forward in faith, He molds us, equipping us to impact others for His glory. Embrace the calling He has placed on your life and take each day as a new opportunity to follow where He leads.

Discussion Questions:

For Students:

How does following Jesus change the way you view your future plans? What are things you might need to leave behind?

For Parents:

How can we model a life of following Jesus to our children? What small steps can we take to show them our commitment to Him?

For Professionals:

In what ways can you bring a "fishing for people" mindset into your workplace? How might following Jesus shift your professional goals?

This week, identify one "net" or area of comfort you need to leave behind to follow Jesus more fully. Pray for strength and take a concrete step toward surrendering it to Him.