

"THE POWER OF DISCIPLESHIP"

Mark 1:16-18

Discipleship is incredible: To see the transformation of men into disciples/men of God. Need to see the power at work.

I. THE SOURCE

A. For many the call strikes terror into their heart: They focus on themselves

1. *I could never do that/I'm not like him/I don't have that ability/I'm shy*

a. *Exo 4:10 But Moses pleaded with the LORD, "O Lord, I'm just not a good speaker. I never have been, and I'm not now, even after you have spoken to me. I'm clumsy with words."*

B. Promise here: God will make us able to do His will

1. The one who calls you will give supernatural ability to fulfill the calling

a. *Mark 1:17 Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men."*

2. Make: To be the author or the cause of something – God's ability/wisdom/power!

a. Supply what you lack/what's missing b. Remove what would stop you from being able

1. *Whom God calls, He equips*

C. 2 things God supplies to help equip us

1. **The Holy Spirit:** *Phil 2:13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*

a. Works: Energy/power... to want to – and be able to

2. **A pastor:** Jesus God in human form – calling them to be his disciples – He will be discipler

a. This is the role of a pastor: To disciple/train/equip you for your calling

1. *Eph 4:11-12 He is the one who gave these gifts to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ,*

II. THE PROCESS

A. When we respond to call – God goes to work on us to prepare us

1. We have to understand that this is a process:

a. *Mark 1:17 Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men."*

B. **This is a challenge:**

1. Pride is a major hindrance to discipleship

a. Men who feel they have already arrived: They know it all – or they are ready right now

1. *Teaching guitar in SA: I'm playing my own notes, b/c I really have a feel for the music now*

2. We can only learn if recognize that we need to learn

a. *Matt 10:24 A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master.*

b. *Phil 3:12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which*

Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

C. **This is an encouragement**

1. We can get discouraged when we look at our own failings/what we lack

a. That's OK: You're not there yet! Allow for the process in your life

III. THE OUTCOME

A. Jesus gives the outcome of their lives if they follow Him: *V17 ...I will make you become fishers of men.*

1. The focus of their lives must be outward – toward sinners

a. Evangelism/involvement in salvation

2. Disciples neglect this or forget this!

a. They can focus on their image/learning/skills *Oz: men with briefcases/calendars*

1. Irrelevant without the ability to successfully fish for men

B. A disciple without involvement in evangelism/souls is a misnomer/oxymoron; No point!

1. You must have involvement in outreach/evangelism

2. You must initiate outreach/evangelism

3. You must have involvement in follow-up/working with new converts

a. *This is where you learn skills/heart/supernatural battles*

C. Jesus is offering the ultimate usefulness in life

1. You can change someone's life 2. You can change their eternity

a. *Daniel 12:3 Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.*