

THE MESSIAH'S CALL

THE MESSIAH'S MISSION [MATTHEW, PART 4] · MATTHEW 8:18-22 · MAY 16, 2021 · PASTOR MATT ERICKSON

SERMON OUTLINE:

"But Jesus told him, 'Follow me.'" (Matthew 8:22)

Discipleship Practice: Drawing Away with Jesus (8:18)

The distinction between disciples and the crowd

Disciples draw away from the crowd

Disciples draw close to Jesus

Discipleship Case Study #1: Reorienting Stability (8:19-20)

What is stability?

Where do we find it?

Reorienting stability in Jesus

Discipleship Case Study #2: Reorienting Societal Norms (Matthew 8:21-22)

What is normal?

Who gets to define it?

Reorienting societal norms in Jesus

Entering the Disciple Life

Hearing Jesus' call again: reading Scripture

Choosing Jesus: Baptism

Following Jesus: Daily Obedience

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When has a job, a project, or relationship been good but really cost you something? What happened?
2. This week we continue our series, "The Messiah's Mission," by looking at two potential disciples approaching Jesus about following Him in Matthew 8:18-22. Begin your study in prayer by asking God to speak to you through His Word and then, whether you are alone or with a group, read that passage aloud.

3. This passage begins with an implicit contrast between the crowd gathering around Jesus and a community of disciples with Jesus. Why might Jesus be crossing the other side of the lake? You may want to compare to Matthew 5:1 and 14:13, 22-23 for a reason why.
4. Why do you think it looks like to draw away with Jesus in our life as disciples? Why might this be important in our life?
5. The first of two discipleship case studies is in verses 19-20. What do you think this teacher of the law is really trying to say to Jesus in verse 19?
6. While Jesus probably had a secure place to stay as a carpenter's son, and also experienced hospitality from others, He had forsaken much stability by the world's measures to pursue an itinerant ministry. What do you think Jesus is trying to say to the teacher of the law?
7. The second of the discipleship case studies is in verses 21-22. The law required eldest sons to arrange for their parents' funerals (Genesis 50:5-7), with burial taking place within twenty-four hours of death. However, some scholars point out that in such a case this second disciple should not even have been with this crowd before Jesus but at home keeping vigil. It is likely this man is talking about fulfilling his long-term family responsibilities during his father's lifetime. Given that context, what do you think Jesus is trying to say about discipleship in verse 22?
8. When have you let something go or radically change your life in order to be a disciple of Jesus? What happened?
9. What would you say it looks like to put Jesus' teaching into practice in your life?
10. What is one thing God is speaking to you through this study? If you're on your own, write that down and pray over that this week. If you are with a small group, share your answers with one another before closing in prayer.

DIGGING DEEPER:

This week dig deeper into Jesus' teaching on our response to Him in one or more of the following ways:

- Depending on which one captures you more, consider memorizing Matthew 8:19-20 or 8:21-22 this week.
- Set aside some time this week to pray about this week's passage. Ask the Lord if there is anything that stands in the way of your absolute following of Him? Journal about this or talk with a friend and pray about it.
- Read several passages where Jesus calls disciples. As you do, identify different aspects of Jesus' call and people's response (or lack of response): Matthew 4:18-22; Luke 5:1-11; John 1:35-51; Matthew 8:18-22; Mark 5:1-20; Matthew 9:9-13; Mark 10:17-27; Luke 14:25-35.
- In order to dig deeper into the calling of discipleship consider reading either Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *The Cost of Discipleship* or Os Guinness' *The Call*.