



## Decision

Jesus is calling today. Every person has an invitation.

He is calling some to “follow”—to receive salvation and become a follower of Jesus Christ.

He is calling some to “fish,” to serve Him in a specific, life-changing way.

“Come.” Allow Him, through His Spirit, to claim your heart, to call you, to equip you, and to send you to the place where He wants you to “fish.”



**The Power of Invitation**

**Biblical Text:** Matthew 4:18-20  
**Biblical Truth:** The call of Christ is clear and direct.  
**Lesson Goal:** People will recognize and respond to Christ's open invitation.

## Introduction:

For some, opening the mail is a highlight of their day. They sort through ads and envelopes with expectancy. This week, someone will open an envelope with an invitation inside. Perhaps it will be accompanied by another note, an RSVP ("Respond if you please"). Whether it will be an invitation to celebrate someone's birth or anniversary or a simple invitation to dinner with friends, accepting it could lead to a life-changing moment.

In Matthew 4, Jesus Christ is giving an invitation to His future disciples: "Come, follow me." For two fishermen by the Sea of Galilee, it was a life-changing moment. Matthew 4:18-20, "As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will make you fishers of men.' At once they left their nets and followed him."

## The invitation to follow Jesus is the greatest invitation ever given or received.

Look closely at Christ's invitation in Matthew 4:19:

### 1. The invitation was Personal, "Come, follow me."

- A. Each had to make a decision on a personal level (no one else could make it for them).
- B. Each had to consider the consequence of either accepting or declining.
- C. Accepting and sharing Christ's invitations are personal, life-changing moments.

#### Discussion:

- From what you have read or heard of the Disciples, what do you think their lives would have been like had they declined Christ's invitation?
- What positive results resulted from their acceptance?
- Accepting Christ's invitation to follow Him is life-changing in every area of our life. (List some of those areas.)

### 2. The Invitation was Transformational, "... and I will make you ..."

In an age of self-help books, videos, and seminars, the invitation is revolutionary. Jesus was promising to transform the lives of the fishermen. They would be changed from the inside out.

- Their purpose would change.
- Their plans would change.
- Their relationships would change.
- Their impact on society would change.

Read Colossians 1:14-16.

- A. Christ is the Creator. In the beginning He made *everything* from *nothing* (See Gen. 1:1, Jn. 1:3).
- B. Accepting the invitation of a spiritual relationship with Him is transformational—He can make something valuable and eternal from something sinful and earthly.

#### Reflection

- In what area of your life do you need a "transformation?"
- Can you transform that area by your own effort?

### 3. The Invitation was Purposeful, "... fishers of men."

- A. For the fishermen, accepting Christ's invitation meant serving a greater purpose. Before, they were just "fishers." Now, Christ was inviting them to take fishing to the next level—to make an eternal difference in the lives of others.
- B. Christ's invitations always serve a higher purpose (Read Jn. 10:10).

#### Discussion:

- How does becoming a follower of Jesus Christ result in making a difference, not only in your life, but in the lives of others?