

The Great Invitation

Matthew 4:17-22

Pastor Paul Moffett

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Main Truth: Jesus' great invitation brings adventure, purpose and risk.

From then on Jesus began to preach, "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near."¹⁸ One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living.¹⁹ Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!"²⁰ And they left their nets at once and followed him.²¹ A little farther up the shore he saw two other brothers, James and John, sitting in a boat with their father, Zebedee, repairing their nets. And he called them to come, too.²² They immediately followed him, leaving the boat and their father behind. Matthew 4:17-22 (New Living Translation)

1. This invitation involves: A great call

See Matthew 4:18-19 (NLT)

"Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

John 21:18-19 (New International Version)

- Following Jesus is about relationship.
- Following Jesus is about study, obedience and imitation.

"Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." John 17:3 (NIV)

Reflection: In which of these do you need to grow as you follow Him?

2. This invitation includes: A great commission

See Matthew 4:19 (NLT)

Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!"
Matthew 4:19 (NLT)

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." Matthew 28:19-20a (NIV)

Reflection: One Name: _____.

3. This invitation requires: A great cost

See Matthew 4:20-22 (NLT)

See also Mark 8:34; Luke 14:26-27; Luke 14:33

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“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” Mark 8:34b (NIV)

“If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters – yes, even their own life – such a person cannot be my disciple. ²⁷And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.”

Luke 14:26-27 (NIV)

“In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.” Luke 14:33 (NIV)

Communion/Application:

1. What has Jesus given me as I have followed Him? (New *what?*)
2. What is holding me back from fishing for people?
3. Who do I have a burden for (person, people group, nation)?
4. What am I willing to leave behind?

I will follow!