

Gains and Losses In Following Jesus

This week – The Lord Jesus selects and calls His disciples to Follow Him.

**Jesus saith unto them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”**  
*Mathew 4 v19*

**Bible Readings for this week:**

(Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Mark 1v14-22 (Jesus said, ‘Follow Me’)	
Monday	Matthew v12-25 (Call of Peter, Andrew, James & John)	
Tuesday	Luke 5v1-16 (Jesus preaches from Simon’s boat)	
Wednesday	Mark 10v23-31 (Peter said, ‘We have left all’)	
Thursday	Mark 10v32-45 (Learning to be servants of Christ)	
Friday	Luke 9v1-6, 57-62 (The Lord had no fixed home)	
Saturday	1 Peter 2v9-25 (Called out of darkness into light)	

**Important Thought for us Today:** How exactly does someone become a Christian?

We are not born a Christian (in fact we are born sinful), nor can we grow into being one. There is nothing we can do to change or improve ourselves spiritually in God’s holy sight. Attendance at church, reading our Bibles, and trying not to sin are good things to do – BUT these do not, and cannot, save us. *Psalm 14v3* tells us, ‘**there is none that doeth good, no, not one**’. As we saw last week, even Baptism does not save us. To become a Christian we need a personal conversion experience – a new relationship with God. This is the inward work of God The Holy Spirit, giving us a new heart and faith in Jesus Christ. The Bible calls it being ‘born from above’, ‘born again’, ‘quickened’, (*read John 3v3,7, 1 Peter 1,v23, Ephesians 2v1*). This new heart activates our conscience and exposes the awfulness of our sin in God’s sight. This conviction causes us to repent and believe that God sent His Son to live a perfect life as a Man, and that He died to take the punishment for our sin.

**Hymn 437 - Expressing the joy of personally knowing the Saviour:**

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| <p>1. O Happy day, that fixed my choice<br/>                 On Thee, my Saviour and my God!<br/>                 Well may this glowing heart rejoice,<br/>                 And tell its raptures all abroad.</p> <p>4. Now rest, my long-divided heart,<br/>                 Fixed on this blissful centre, rest;<br/>                 Nor ever from the Lord depart,<br/>                 With Him of every good possessed.</p> | <p>3. ‘Tis done! The great transaction’s done;<br/>                 I am my Lord’s, and He is mine;<br/>                 He drew me, and I followed on,<br/>                 Charmed to confess the voice divine.</p> <p>5. High Heaven, that heard the solemn vow,<br/>                 That vow renewed shall daily hear,<br/>                 Till in life’s latest hour I bow,<br/>                 And bless in death a bond so dear.</p> |
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EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet

*This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible.*

**Four Fishermen Obey Christ’s Call To Follow Him.**

- **The Fishermen – Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John had:** -
  - **Demanding Work.** Fishing was tough, hard and very dangerous work.
  - **Respect for God.** Recognising The Lord God as Creator and Giver of life.
  - **Faced Up To Sin.** Simon and Andrew had heard John The Baptist preach of repentance of sin and to look for Jesus, the promised Messiah. (**John 1v40**)
  - **Willingness To Listen.** The Lord said, ‘**Follow Me**’ - They obeyed His call.

*Have we respect for our Creator God, recognising His holiness, and our sinfulness? Hear Ye Him.*

- **By Following Their Saviour The Disciples Faced Losses when they left:** -
  - **Their Nets** - Willingly giving up their jobs, income, and independence.
  - **Their Comforts and Security** - Leaving their homes, families, and friends.
  - **Immediately** - They followed without any delay. The Lord’s call was so clear and compelling; far too important to be put off until another day.
  - **Everything** - Following The Lord – ‘**Who had nowhere to lay His head.**’ (Luke 9v58)

*Will we give ourselves fully to the Lord now, to put Him first, to love and obey Him in everything?*

- **By Following The Saviour, The Disciples Gained so much more as they:**
  - **Escaped the Disappointments of This World** – At first a great sacrifice; but they quickly realised this world is full of sin which does not satisfy the soul.
  - **Experienced Wonderful Privileges** – Witnessing Christ’s miracles, and hearing His preaching, being taught the truth about God and forgiveness. They were eye-witnesses of His Transfiguration, Death and Resurrection, and received the Holy Spirit on The Day of Pentecost. As Apostles they all became Gospel preachers – ‘**Fishers of men**’, and three wrote Scripture.
  - **Left Darkness and Found Light** – Peter described conversion as being called by the Lord ‘**out of darkness into His marvellous light.**’ (1 Peter 2v9)  
 The Lord promises His faithful followers a great reward. (**Mark 10v30**)

*Will we be faithful so as to receive the rich blessings of the Lord’s promises as we follow Him?*

- **Have You Heard God’s Call to Come and Follow The Lord Jesus Christ?**
  - God’s call is not audible. He calls us through His Word and Gospel preaching.
  - Our conscience ‘hears’. We sincerely seek forgiveness of our sin in humble repentance. He gives us faith to believe that Jesus Christ died to save us.

*The lives of Peter, Andrew, James, and John were dramatically changed when they obeyed the call to ‘Follow’ the Lord. Is this your experience? Do not wait, come now.*

Peter wrote, referring to all who are called to follow Jesus Christ as disciples in faith, **“Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”**