

Step Out: Following Jesus Beyond Your Comfort Zone

“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. Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” And they left their nets at once and followed him. 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. They immediately followed him, leaving the boat and their father behind.

Matthew 4:18-22

1. Jesus calls us beyond our familiar routines.

a. The comfort of the familiar.

Like these fishermen, we often find sanctuary in the familiar, in doing things the same way because it feels safe.

b. Jesus disrupts the ordinary.

This teaches us that God’s call often comes not when we are desperate for change, but right in the middle of our ordinary comfortable lives.

c. Biblical examples of leaving comfort zones:

Abraham - Genesis 11:31-32 & 12:1-4

Moses - Exodus 3

Ruth - Ruth 1:16

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

Proverbs 3:5-6

2. Following Christ requires immediate action.

a. The power of “immediately”.

Their immediate response teaches us that following Christ often requires prompt obedience.

b. The cost of discipleship.

Following Christ requires us to hold everything with open hands, ready to release what God asks us to surrender.

c. Biblical examples of immediate obedience:

Gideon - Judges 6:12

Paul - Acts 9:1-19

David - 1 Samuel 17:37

"Simply put, if you're not willing to take what is dearest to you, whether plans or people, and kiss it good-bye, you can't be my disciple."

Luke 14:33

d. The danger of delay.

Every day we postpone obedience, our hearts can grow harder, and the voice of God can become fainter.

3. God transforms our ordinary lives for extraordinary purposes.

a. From fishermen to fishers of men.

Their knowledge of nets, boats, and fishing became metaphors for gathering people into God's kingdom. God doesn't waste our experiences; he transforms them for His purposes.

b. God uses our background for His glory.

Esther - Esther 4:14

Mary - Luke 1:38

Joshua - Joshua 1:9

c. The promise of God’s presence.

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Isaiah 41:10

4. Conclusion and Application - Practical Steps

1. Start small.
2. Seek Godly counsel.
3. Remember God’s faithfulness.

5. The Promise of Transformation

Jesus is still calling today. Will you drop your nets and follow Him?

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