



An Invitation to Follow Christ – Matthew 4:19-20

*“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” At once they **left their nets** and **followed him**.*

They let go of the past and embraced a new path/future.

Key Principle . . . If you don't let your past _____ ... your past won't let you _____.

*So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ**, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 2 Corinthians 5:16-18*

As a Follower of Christ ... I am “In Christ”

1. As a Follower of Christ ... I am _____
2. As a Follower of Christ ... I am _____
3. As a Follower of Christ ... I am commissioned to help others to be _____.

My Response – Am I following?

What is my next step?
 Am I willing to take the next step?

Truth for Life

For the week of April 9, 2017
 (Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. What does it mean to you if you don't let your past die; it won't let you live? Talk about how you may have seen a person's past entrap them; hold them in bondage; keep them from moving forward. Were they able to move forward at some point? How did they move forward? What steps did they take?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-18. Talk about what it means to be “In Christ.” What are the benefits? How do we get “In Christ?”
3. Last week, Pastor David made the statement, The Holy Spirit came to change our lives, not fix them. Is there a difference? If so, what is the difference? Do you agree or disagree?
4. Since following Christ is a process and not a destination, we may stall along the way. What I have found is that our past may be the catalyst that initiates the stall or our past may become what keeps us stalled. Movement forward in life is impossible when our attention or focus is in the rear-view mirror. Have you seen this to be true? How do you move forward? How do you keep from being stalled again by your past?

Action Step Challenge ...

The challenge to follow Christ moves us beyond the plotting of our path to see how far we have come. Evaluate our present status by asking, am I following Christ? That doesn't mean radical change all at once. It means taking one step. Whatever your next step is . . . take it. Whatever your point of challenge is right now, that's where God wants to work in your life.

1. Based on where you are right now, what is your next step in following Jesus?
2. What is one thing you can do this week to begin to follow Jesus or to follow him more closely? What can this group do to support you?

Memory Verse

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” – Matt. 4:19



Letting Go ...

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

April 9, 2017

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As a Follower of Christ ... I am “In Christ”

1. As a Follower of Christ ... I am **completely forgiven**
2. As a Follower of Christ ... I am **unconditionally loved**
3. As a Follower of Christ ... I am commissioned to help others to be **set free from their past**.

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Am I willing to take the next step?

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