"Catching? or Drowning Worms?"
Week 1: Follow Me

04-07-19a

TEXT: Matthew 4:19

INTRO: I've fished in a lot of places, from rivers to the gulf stream 90 miles off the coast. I've caught red snapper, amberjack, brim, catfish, flounder, and even some odd-looking creature that I think was a fish. In all that fishing, I've learned that catching is way more fun than drowning worms. I believe the same is true of our Christian walk. As we enter April and approach Easter, the most prolific holiday of the Christian faith, I believe God would draw our attention to the invitation Jesus gave to His disciples to become something more than fishermen. Jesus made these first disciples an offer they could not refuse. He offers them a life of purpose and significance. He offers them a thrilling adventure of perpetually angling for the souls of men. It came with one catch; they must accept the invitation to follow Him. But what does that mean? How did the disciples respond to "follow me?" More importantly, if Jesus is making us the same offer today, how do we follow Him?

1. PRIORITIZE THE <u>MISSION</u>

A) To follow Jesus required them to detach from their current state, and to attach to Jesus instead. The same is true for us.

B) They could no longer exist as they previously had. The invitation necessitated a change in lifestyle. The Kingdom had to take priority. Consider the rich young ruler and his inability to detach. (Matt. 19:21)

2. MAKE THE <u>TRECK</u>

A) This will be a tough path to walk. To follow Jesus, you will learn to make the tough choices. To get to where the fish are, you'll have to take some difficult trails. (Mark 8:34)

B) To fish like Jesus fishes you'll carry what He carried, meaning you'll carry your own cross. This alludes to the Christians suffering.

3. COMMIT TO THE <u>PLAN</u>

A) These four disciples had the offer of a lifetime. They walked away from it all to follow Jesus. Like them, He invites us to join this journey. (Matt. 4:22)

B) To follow Jesus requires an act of faith. In faith, you commit to the plan of following Him, and He'll make you more than you ever dreamed you could be.