

# Follow

*FCC Life Group Discussion Notes*

*Based on the "Follow, Connect, Contribute" Series of Matthew Rogers*

*09-14-2025*

## Summary of the Sermon

The sermon emphasizes the importance of responding accurately to Jesus' invitation to discipleship, as illustrated by a humorous anecdote about a pastor mistakenly praying over a septic tank due to unclear instructions. The core text, Matthew 4:18-22, describes Jesus calling Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John to follow Him, promising to make them "fishers of men." This call defines discipleship as following Jesus, being transformed by Him, and becoming disciple-making disciples who reproduce faith in others. The sermon contrasts the misconception of discipleship as merely being a "good person" with the biblical call to make disciples, as reinforced by Matthew 28:19-20. The church's discipleship pathway—Follow, Connect, Contribute—guides believers from investigators to disciple-makers, emphasizing that true spiritual maturity involves making disciples, not just personal improvement.

## Ice Breaker for Discussion

**Question:** If you received an invitation to an event but got the details wrong (like the pastor in the story), share a funny or memorable mix-up you've experienced with an invitation or directions. How did it turn out?

## Point 1: "Follow Me"

**Scripture Reading:** Direct (Someone) to read **Matthew 4:18-20** (CSB):

*"As he was walking along the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter), and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. 'Follow me,' he told them, 'and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him."*

**Summary:** Jesus' call to "Follow me" is an invitation to make a deliberate choice to move toward Him, leaving behind old ways. This involves choosing Jesus over competing worldly distractions, as C.S. Lewis illustrates with the analogy of preferring "mudpies" over a "holiday at sea." Following Jesus means embracing a new identity in Christ, found at the cross, where we release false self-perceptions and begin a journey of transformation.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What are some "mudpies" (worldly distractions) that make it hard for you to choose to follow Jesus fully? How can you prioritize Him over these?
2. How does the idea of finding your true identity in Christ challenge or encourage you in your daily life?

## Point 2: “I Will Make You”

**Scripture Reading:** Direct (Someone) to read **Galatians 5:22-23** (CSB):

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The law is not against such things.”*

**Summary:** Jesus promises to transform those who follow Him, molding them into His image. This transformation is not about self-effort but about trusting Jesus to shape us into people who reflect His character—loving, joyful, patient, and more. The pressure is off us; Jesus does the work as we follow, making us new creations aligned with His purpose.

### Discussion Questions:

1. How have you seen Jesus shape your character in specific ways since you started following Him? Share an example.
2. Why might it be tempting to rely on our own efforts to become “good” instead of trusting Jesus to transform us? How can we surrender to His work?

## Point 3: “Fishers of Men”

**Scripture Reading:** Direct (Someone) to read **Matthew 28:19-20** (CSB):

*“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

**Summary:** Jesus’ call to be “fishers of men” means becoming disciple-making disciples who share His mission of bringing others to faith. True spiritual maturity is not about being a “good person” by human standards but about reproducing disciples, as emphasized in the Great Commission. The church’s pathway (Follow, Connect, Contribute) reflects this progression, urging believers to contribute to others’ faith journeys. Failing to make disciples indicates a stalled spiritual journey focused on self rather than Christ and others.

### Discussion Questions:

1. Who has been instrumental in helping you follow Jesus, and how can you be that person for someone else?
2. What holds you back from actively making disciples, and how can your Life Group support you in taking steps toward this calling?

## Recap of the Lesson

The sermon challenges us to respond accurately to Jesus' invitation to discipleship, as outlined in Matthew 4:18-22. Discipleship involves three key elements: choosing to **follow** Jesus, allowing Him to **make** us into His image, and becoming **fishers of men** by making disciples. Misconceptions of discipleship as merely being a "good person" fall short of Jesus' call to reproduce faith in others. The church's pathway—Follow, Connect, Contribute—guides us toward becoming disciple-making disciples, reflecting true spiritual maturity.

## Challenge

This week, identify one person in your life who is an "investigator" or "new believer" and take a practical step to help them grow closer to Jesus. This could be inviting them to your Life Group, sharing how Jesus has transformed you, or praying with them. Ask God to show you how to contribute to their faith journey and reflect on how this action aligns with your identity as a disciple-making disciple.