

## **RECTOR'S MESSAGE – January 25, 2026**

### ***“Come, Follow Me”***

As we reflect on this season of the Epiphany, Matthew 4:12-23 is a great starter pack for our Christian discipleship.

Following His mission on earth, Jesus leaves Nazareth for Capernaum, fulfilling prophecy and starting his Galilean ministry (Matthew 4:12-17, cf. Isaiah 9:1-2). His call to "Follow me" is an open invitation to ordinary people (fishermen) to drop everything and follow him (v18-22). And leaving everything behind, Peter, Andrew, James, and John leave their nets, something dear to their hearts and decided to follow Jesus. The purpose and mission of Jesus' mission to these folks is to "proclaim the kingdom of heaven" (v17), a decision which transformed the world around them. Thus, we're also called to join Him in this mission as well.

So for us today in our call to discipleship:

- Are you leaving something behind to follow Jesus to make a difference in the world that is now so full of hate and division?
- What's your "net"? Is it your comfort zone to make a difference in the world around you? Any habit to get rid off? Or a goal to achieve something meaningful in this new year?
- How are you joining Jesus' mission? (Remember our [5 Marks of Mission](#) as believers in Christ).

Following Jesus isn't just about where you go, it's about how you live. We now the 'Bible' people read that tells the good news of Jesus. It's a lifestyle we live and surrender with obedience and purpose.

Think about it: Jesus calls people from different walks of life – fishermen, tax collectors, etc. and now He's even calling you today. Because He sees the potential in His disciples to make the world a better place; and invites you too to join His mission in the world, considering how the world around us has become so different and volatile at the moment.

Here are questions for you to reflect on: What's one area where you feel Jesus saying, "Leave that behind and follow me?" Could it be a habit, a negative mindset, or it could be something that doesn't produce anything worthwhile or meaningful results?

It's not too late to have that fresh start, "Come, Follow Me", Jesus says. And you'd be glad you did. Thanks be to God.

*The Reverend Wilson Akinwale  
Rector*