

The Ark Church  
September 10, 2025

**Stewardship: 1 Kings 17:** <sup>13</sup> *Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son.*

During a famine, God sent Elijah to a widow with a child to be fed. She declared she only had enough for one more meal for herself and her son and then they would die of starvation. But when she obeyed the prophet and gave his food first...God multiplied her oil and meal and she was fed through the entire famine.

*Message:*

- ⇒ *Put God first.*
- ⇒ *Don’t be afraid to give.*
- ⇒ *Give your gift and God will bless it...*

*(2 Corinthians 9:8 Amplified. And God is able to make all grace [every favor and earthly blessing] come in abundance to you, so that you may always [under all circumstances, regardless of the need] have complete sufficiency in everything [being completely self-sufficient in Him], and have an abundance for every good work and act of charity)*

## LESSON – FOLLOW ME

*Matthew 4:19 NKJV Then He (Jesus) said to them, “Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men”*

### **Follow Me and I will Make You:**

“Follow Me” is from such an impactful sermon John Osteen preached many years ago that has profoundly influenced my life.

**The basic truth of that message was if we would follow Jesus, He would mold us into the followers of Jesus he has always wanted us to be.**

<b>The Challenge: In our text verse is to “follow.”</b>
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**The call to “Follow Me” is an invitation to a transformative journey of discipleship.**

- *Christian – 63%*
- *Disciples – 4%*

This doesn’t mean that only 4% of the people in our culture are “saved” ... it means that few ever get beyond the first stages of their salvation and enjoy the benefits and joy of the **transformed life** of a disciple

## FROM THE AMPLIFIED BIBLE:

*Matthew 4:19 **Amplified** And He(Jesus) said to them, “Follow Me as your Master and Teacher and walking the same path of life that I walk) and I will make you fishers of men.*

**Both Matthew 4 and Luke 5 share this narrative, however, Luke 5 gives more detail .** Jesus using Peter’s boat to teach and then sending them out to catch a great number of fish, after a night of catching nothing. As they unloaded their great catch, Jesus made this astounding statement.

**The men he was addressing knew what Jesus meant.... Leave their life and find a new life in Christ.**

**For us it doesn’t usually mean selling our boat or turning the family business over to someone else... but it does mean to be willing to make the changes necessary to do the work to become SPIRITUALLY ALIVE, ROBUST, VITAL AND ENERGIZED (2 THESSAONIANS 4: THIS CERTAINLY HAPPENED TO THEM.....**

It was the custom in that day for teachers or, rabbi’s, as they were called, to invite individuals to “follow” them and become disciples. **Jesus is referred to as “rabbi” many times in the gospels.** However, Jesus was no ordinary rabbi. Everywhere he went the crowds were “astonished” and “overwhelmed with wonder”, not only at his teaching, but also by the miracles that followed him.

## Disciple

Let’s talk about the word disciple for a minute. To be a disciple simply means:

- a student of a teacher or philosopher”.
- Not just a learner but a practitioner of an embodied way of life,
- One who is diligently working to be with and become like their master.

**So an invitation to follow Jesus was**

- an invitation to become an intimate disciple
- be mentored by, and
- become like Jesus.

*Matthew 4:19 Amplified. And He (Jesus) said to them, “Follow Me as your Master and Teacher and walking the same path of life that I walk) and I will make you fishers of men.*

**That’s what I’m talking about tonight. Discovering the joy of a transformed life.**

## Three Goals of a Disciple

### Three Spiritual Habits

**(the life you now live is the result of the habits you have developed over your life)**

To become a disciple of Jesus is to organize your entire life around three driving goals:

1. Be with Jesus...this is worship.
2. To learn from Jesus
3. To be like Jesus

This is a lifelong journey, in which we learn to do and say the kinds of things Jesus did and said, as we become intimately joined to Him.

Romans 12:1 NLT I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

(Ampc: **12:1** I appeal to you therefore, brethren, *and* beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service *and* spiritual worship. “Spiritual Worship”.

**Romans 12:2 NKJV** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Three Parts:

1. Learning to worship God continually, (this includes prayer, time with Jesus, and keeping Him in the center of your mind (first thing in the morning; all through the day, and making scripture the last thing you put into your mind at night).
2. Learning to live from your spirit, rather than your mind, intellect and emotions.
  - A. Become aware of your thoughts and begin to train yourself to “hold your mind in place”
  - B. Be aware of what you are feeding your mind (do you need to change your mental diet?)
  - C. Train your will by “walking in the Spirit” (Galatians 5:16 NKJV I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. And Galatians 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

**We do this by developing new “Spiritual Habits” or Spiritual Goals:**

One way to paraphrase Jesus’ invitation to “follow me” is to say; **“Adopt my overall way of life to experience the life I have to offer.”**

**To do this YOU WILL HAVE TO SLOW DOWN AND PAY ATTENTION.** (only one thing is important...give your spiritual life priority and you will walk in victory).

Question: As Jesus makes the invitation today: **“Follow Me and I will Make You.... WHO ARE YOU FOLLOWING?**

Everyone is following somebody – or something.

- Put another way – we are all disciples.

The question isn't am I a disciple.... It's Who or what am I a disciple of?

- What demands my time and attention?
- What consumes my thoughts?
- Who or what am I following?
- Who or what dictates how I spend my time?
- Who or what is constantly in my thoughts

**Make Jesus your priority:**

- ⇒ Be With Jesus
- ⇒ Learn from Him
- ⇒ Become Like Him

**Tonight remember the words of Jesus: Adopt my overall way of life to experience the life I have to offer.” And make the decision to do the work of developing new “Spiritual Habits” or Spiritual Goals:**