

Intro: Continue with the series on Great Design: Discovering How God Created us to serve Him and others
Last Week Spiritual Gifts (Every Christian has them) If you missed last week, Green Paper has inventory, Guide will help you
Basically we said we were all *Gifted for Greatness*, Each Individually and Uniquely Equipped to make a difference in our world
Today we want to look not at our individual qualifications, but rather at the common Call we all receive from Jesus
This is a call that Jesus first issued to the disciples in His earthly ministry, and it is a call we all have from Him today.
No one is exempt...I believe every individual that knows Jesus hears this same call...and has to decide if they will answer it

Called To Commit To Jesus

The call that we all receive is the call Jesus issued to Peter, James, John, Matthew...two little words...incredibly powerful
“Follow Me” Use the acronym WALK If you are going to Follow Jesus, first you must:

1. Weigh The Cost of Following Him! Mt 16:24-28 Pg 694

All too often today we hear and we buy into a cheap Gospel. “All you have to do is believe” That is true
But, that belief, if it is real, comes with a very high price tag! Cost to Jesus...and a subsequent cost to us

- **Cost you have to be willing to pay**
Deny Yourself: To utterly deny, to disown, to distance yourself from your own will
Pick up Cross: To willingly shoulder that which will ultimately cost you your life!
- **Choice you have to make: (Pursue Jesus...or the things in this world)**
The world...the things of this world system
Power, Prestige, Material possessions, Influence
- **Consequences we all have to be aware of**
Reward: Each one according to what he has done
One day we will all stand before Him
What will you offer him?
Hey Jesus: I didn't teach those 4 yr olds...but...Great 401K!
Never did get around to finding out my spiritual gift...but I've got a great golf game
Sorry about that tithing thing...I know I should have invested in ministry, but if you want to come to beach house

Or...Well done...Good and faithful Servant

Applic: As we get ready to go to ministry fair next week, sign up to meet with your guide this week... Count the cost
And here is a key you might want to take into account..

Not just the cost of following him...but the cost...of NOT following Him, pursuing other things...One day...we all get rewarded!

2. Allow Yourself The Opportunity To Fail Without Giving Up. John 21:15-21 Pg 769

I am convinced that one of the things that keeps many of us from ministry is the fear of failure.

We think that we have to be some kind of spiritual giant, and that we should be able to naturally and automatically serve w/o falling
That is not the pattern of the men and women in the bible! Over and over we see them attempt to serve God...and not make it

Peter is a great example

- **Met Jesus in Mt 4:** Follow me...and he tried! Sometimes did well...sometimes he did not..
- **He was a great man...best know for two things...**
Who Do Men Say I am? The Christ
I don't know him!
Look at the end of the story...After Success and Failure...

Reinstatement: Jesus finished Peter's training with the same call that He began it. Follow me!

Applic: As you think about signing up for ministry...listen...I want to do something for you...

I want to give you the permission to try...and fail!

My first sermon @School

3. Leaving Something Behind is A Part of Following Jesus. Luke 9:57-62 Pg 734

This is something we don't like to hear, but it is core component of walking with Jesus

Our approach: Is usually to ADD! Our life...Add Jesus...Just makes it better...

Foreign to the NT. NT...Says...Our life...leave it behind...Not ADDING: REPLACING!

- **Disciples Left Something** (Peter, James, John. Nets, boats, Father) Matthew: Left Everything! Job
- **Luke 9:57-62 Pg 734**
 1. *No place to lay his head:* (Material things)
 2. *Bury my father* (Relationships/Our Priorities in this life)
 3. *Bye to family* BUT (On my terms...No, Follow him w/o conditions)

Applic: Some of you have been thinking about adding ministry to your life, Thinking...No time

Make time! Choose what you are going to leave behind in order to serve Jesus

Most of us have little if any margin in our life. We Can't keep everything...something has to go!

Sin: Favorite Hobby Me time TV

Applic: Maybe you are here...and you are struggling with the call to vocational ministry

All week God has been saying to me...issue the call...There is someone that needs to come

4. Keep Your Focus Correct. Matt 9:9-12 pg 687

The final thing we have to pay attention to if we are going to follow Jesus is that we keep our eye on the ball!

What is serving Him...and others all about?

If we aren't careful, we can easily get caught up in Spiritual Busyness. Filling our day with Church activities

Jesus never did that...Everything He did was intentional, focused on accomplishing what God sent him to do

- **Man's Need:** Spiritually Sick Look at the News
- **God's Desire:** I desire mercy God is still sharing mercy with a lost world
- **Our Purpose:** To Call Sinners We are in the same business Jesus was in!

Applic: If we aren't careful, we will fall into the trap of the Pharisees. God loves me because I am spiritual

God doesn't love you...because you aren't!

Jesus NEVER even hinted at such a thing...

He was always seeking the lost, always reaching out...Always bringing people to the Father

As you have the opportunity this morning to sign up to meet with your Guide

And, As we close in on Easter...with all of the activities...Egg Hunt, Drive Thru, Easter Svcs

And as we get ready next week to sign up for Glimpses..

I want to remind you what it is all about...

It is about bringing lost people back to the Father.

We don't do the Egg Hunt to entertain the kids...have more fun than anyone else

We don't do the drive through because we are bored...just like to act

We don't do services on Easter...just because Its Easter...like the pretty clothes

We do all those things to find people that are far from Church..and from God...and bring them closer

Keep your eye on the ball this Easter...

Find your place of ministry...So you can be a part of bringing people to Jesus

Pray that God will bring people to us this Easter that don't know Him...

And that we will reach out and share His love with them

Come to the Egg Hunt, Drive through the Scenes of Easter, Come to the Services...

Hear about Jesus....

Pray...Invite...Prepare through serving..

It's not just busyness. It is about Following Jesus...

Bringing People to Him