

Bay City Wesleyan Church
January 8, 2017

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Sunday Morning 01-08-2017

Launch a new year and a new series of messages with us as we hear Jesus' invitation, "Follow me."

<http://bible.com/events/151416>
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Our theme for 2017

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Our theme for 2017 is Jesus' invitation, "Follow me."

These two simple words will transform every person that accepts the challenge. I pray that in the next 12 months all of us in this place, as well as those who join us, will see Jesus more clearly, love him more dearly, and follow him more nearly.

Luke 9:23 NET

Then he said to them all, "If anyone wants to become my follower, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me.

Jesus calls us to follow him not a list of rules.

God's grace values relationships over rules. So, Jesus can invite anyone to follow no matter what they believe about him or how they behave.

Luke 5:1-11 NET

Now Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing around him to hear the word of God. He saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then Jesus sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing! But at your word I will lower the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets started to tear. So they motioned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they were about to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For Peter and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so were James and John, Zebedee's sons, who were Simon's business partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." So when they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Sermon in a Sentence:

Following Jesus always starts with listening and learning but it doesn't end there.

NEXT STEP #1

Listen: keep learning; come back next week

NEXT STEP #2

Loan Him Your Boat: inconvenience yourself; add an hour to your weekly schedule by joining a Sunday School class; start reading or listening to the four accounts of Jesus' life; make time to pray each day or add to the time you already spend praying

NEXT STEP #3

Take Him Fishing: change one thing you've been doing (probably one of these -- work, relationships, finances) - you'll know what to change

NEXT STEP #4

Leave Your Nets: give your entire life to Jesus

These four next steps are not the only steps you'll need to take as you follow Jesus. You'll never arrive at the place where you're perfect. And each of you will progress through these steps at your own pace.

Determine your next step and take it as you follow Jesus.