

follow me

introduction

You will need a bath towel for today's study over Mark 1:14-20. To help introduce this topic, wrap a towel around the head of one of the students so he can't see. Walk a few yards away and say to the student, "Follow me." Repeat this several times, using several different students.

message

1. Picture this. You're in English class, and a wise, spiritual man interrupts class, comes to your desk, and says, "Follow me, and I will make you a fisher of students." That would be pretty weird, wouldn't it? The Book of Mark tells a similar story about two fishermen called to follow Jesus. Casting their nets in the Seas of Galilee one day, these two men—Simon and Andrew—though it would be another normal day. Then they saw Jesus walking toward them. Jesus needed a few people to help Him with the world, so He enrolled these men in Great Commission 101.
2. What would you say to such a request? Would you go with a complete stranger? Simon and Andrew responded as soon as Jesus gave the command. They didn't know where they were going. It was as if they had a towel covering their eyes. The same thing happened to James and John in Mark 1:19 -20.
3. Most of us know how things worked out for these disciples of Jesus. Remember, though, that the disciples did not know how the story would end. Despite the uncertainties, these men joined many others to become obedient workers for the harvest, proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ. The essence of their message is found in Mark 1:25 when Jesus says, "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"
4. After following Jesus in obedience, the disciples went through a spiritual boot camp and learned about the battle they had joined. Their mission was to proclaim the good news about the Kingdom. God wanted to save the world from sin, and He wanted to do this "right now". He still has a long way to go. He still needs people like you and I to take the message.

salvation appeal

The message of Jesus Christ has not changed. His power to change lives is still real today. He continues in the business of doing miracles. Of course, the greatest miracle is when someone bows his knee and says yes to Jesus for the very first time. Will you become a follower of Jesus? Will you give Him your life?

challenge

There are disciples just like Simon and Andrew on this campus. Perhaps you are one of them. If you are, Jesus needs you. He needs you to play basketball. He needs you to sing in the choir. He needs you to be a cheerleader. First and foremost he needs you to answer a simple question, "Will you follow me?" You might have to give up something or someone you love. You may have to change your life-style. Will you be obedient to the Master's call? Will you say yes to Him?

