

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

The Call To Follow Jesus.

By Pastor Justin Orr

Sunday, March 9

Matthew 4:18-22 (ESV)

¹⁸ While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

This passage contains the four most overlooked words in all the Bible,

“I will make you.”

Jesus says these four simple words to Simon and Andrew when He invites them to follow Him. This overlooked phrase contains transformational power.

So many times, we spend our walk with Jesus as a to do list and a don't do list. But that's not what

Jesus is calling out of us. Jesus' invitation to these two men to follow Him are the invitation to learn from Him.

**It's an invitation
for relationship.**

It's *not* an invitation to do and to don't. It's an invitation to bear fruit, that's what it means to be a fisher of men, to be transformed. Over and over again God tells us that bearing fruit is duplication. It means I pass on to someone what

has been passed on to me. I learn to fish for people.

How many of us would be drawn into friendships when upon the first meeting they say, “here are the conditions for being my friend, you must do all these things and not do these other things and then we can have a friendship.” That’s crazy. Jesus’ invitation to follow Him is an invitation to know Him, and as we get to know Him, He does this amazing work inside of us and causes us to bear fruit and be

fishers of men. That's why these words, "I will make you," are so crucial.

He does the transformation in us.

Our job is to show up.

So how do we do that?

A relationship with Jesus requires that I know who Jesus is. The only place to find that is in the Word of God, specifically by spending time in the Gospels. These are the stories that teach me who He is. I need to read them over and over again so that I know them so well I

would recognize Him anywhere. These are like love letters that we should linger upon, spend time thinking about and talking about with others.

Following Him means too long to know Him.

The second piece of a relationship is conversation. I can't be good friends with my wife if we don't talk to each other, we might as well be roommates. Our relationship won't thrive if we

don't have conversation. The same is true for Jesus, I must talk to Him. I must learn to be patient and to listen.

We call this prayer.

All of this may sound like an oversimplification of what it means to follow Jesus, but let's be real, how much time do we spend reading the Gospels regularly and how much time do we spend daily in prayer outside of emergency prayer needs?

If you want your Easter to be different this year, then make it different.

**Seek Him in His Word,
seek Him in prayer.**

Let those four missed words,
“I will make you,” shape you and
form you into a different person.