

The Call to Apprenticeship

Pastor Jeremy Peters

APPRENTICE:

One who is learning a trade, art or calling by _____ experience under a skilled worker. To be an apprentice does not mean you are very _____ at what you are learning, or have been doing it for very _____, but you are _____ about who you are trying to become.

Mark 1:16-20 NLT

One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" And they left their nets at once and followed him.

A little farther up the shore Jesus saw Zebedee's sons, James and John, in a boat repairing their nets. He called them at once, and they also followed him, leaving their father, Zebedee, in the boat with the hired men.

3 Aspects of the Call to Apprenticeship

1. The Call is to _____ Himself

"This encounter [ie. Jesus' calling of the fishermen and their immediate response] is a testimony to the absolute, direct, and unaccountable authority of Jesus... It gives no intelligible program for a way of life, no goal or ideal to strive after. It is not a cause which human calculation might deem worthy of our devotion."
~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

2. The Call requires Radical _____

THE KINGDOM IN ACTION

"What's the solution to fanaticism? Many would say, 'Well, why can't we be in the middle? Moderation in all things. Not too zealous, and not too uncommitted. Being in the middle would be just right.'
So is that the way Christianity works? Does Jesus say, 'Moderation in all things'?...
...Remember what religion is: advice on how you must live to earn your way to God. Your job is to follow that advice to the best of your ability. If you follow it but don't get carried away, then you have moderation.
[Are you] still treating Christianity as advice instead of good news?...
Because the gospel is not about choosing to follow advice, it's about being called to follow a King." ~ Tim Keller

3. The Call includes the Formation of a _____ Community

While the Call of Jesus is always _____ it is never _____.

One Notable Absence...

Neither Jesus himself nor his early followers ever taught that you can decide to enjoy _____ at Jesus' expense and then have nothing more to do with him.

"[My] feeling [is] that a notable heresy has come into being throughout evangelical Christian circles—the widely accepted concept that we humans can choose to accept Christ only because we need him as Savior and that we have the right to postpone our obedience to him as Lord as long as we want to!.... that salvation apart from obedience is unknown in the sacred scriptures." ~ A.W. Tozer

2 points of Clarification:

- 1) Grace is not opposed to _____, it is opposed to _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- 2) _____ belief is not the same thing as _____ belief
(see James 2:14-18)
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The Call to Apprenticeship

Mark 1:16-20

- 1) What from this passage and Sunday morning's teaching stood out to you?
- 2) In his sermon Pastor Jeremy spoke about the *call to apprenticeship* being a call to Jesus Himself. He spoke about the authority and person of Christ compelling a "yes" response from those who had received the invitation to be His disciple. They did not primarily say "yes" because they had reasoned it out intellectually by weighing the pros and cons or by analyzing the projected outcomes of their choice. It wasn't about logical reasoning. It was about Jesus.

Review Dietrich Bonhoeffer's quote from the sermon outline.

- a) As you engage the teaching on Sunday and Bonhoeffer's quote, to what extent would you say that *reason* factors into our decision to follow Jesus? Is it important to understand *why* Jesus asks us to do something before we do it?
- b) What factors led to your decision to say "yes" to Jesus initially? What determines your intent to follow Him at present?
- 3) Pastor Jeremy also described the *call to apprenticeship* as being a call to radical abandonment.

Read Luke 14:26 and review the quote on the sermon outline from Tim Keller.
 - a) How do you understand the seemingly severe and 'unreasonable' nature of Jesus' words? What might this look like in your 'everyday life'?
 - b) What are examples of how someone might treat Christianity as 'advice to consider' instead of a 'King to follow'?
 - c) Have you ever considered the possibility that your fear to commit to complete obedience is rooted in a lack of trust that God has your best interests at heart?
- 4) Sometimes people equate a 'personal' relationship with Jesus with a 'private' relationship with Jesus. What do you think are differences between a 'personal' and 'private' relationship with Jesus? Are there implications for your life this week?

- 5) Read Tozer's quote from the sermon outline.

Do you agree or disagree with Tozer's perspective?
Is this truly a 'heresy'?

Why do you think some people readily choose to 'accept' Jesus as Savior but 'postpone' obedience to Him as Lord? What do we miss out on in our apprenticeship journey if this is our perspective?

- 6) On Sunday Pastor Jeremy talked about how 'Grace is not opposed to *effort*, it is opposed to *earning*.' Do you find this to be a helpful distinction? In what ways might grace be required to help us in our *efforts* to apprentice with Jesus?
- 7) Pastor Jeremy also spoke about how *professed* belief (what we say we believe) is not the same thing as *true* belief (what our actions prove that we believe). He gave the example of healthy eating and exercise. We may profess to believe that eating right is the best thing for us, but when we actually look at how we eat, our true beliefs become evident.
 - a) Read James 2:14-18 and discuss what constitutes a 'professed' belief and a 'true' belief.

Is there an area of your life where your professed beliefs do not match your true beliefs? What are some intentional things that you can do to bring greater alignment to what you say you believe and what your actions prove you believe?
- 8) Take some time to pray for each other, that we would grow as apprentices of Jesus as we seek to follow Him alone with radical abandonment and in community together.