



His Way, Our Passion

John 1:35-39, 43; Mark 1:14-18; Matthew 9:9; 11:28-30

A Christian is a disciple of Jesus who puts into practice his words and way to be with him and become like him.

I. Returning to Jesus

“Come and see ...follow me ...come to me...” = personal words spoken by Jesus to specific people.

Jesus is a person who calls people to follow him. Jesus is a Teacher (Rabbi) who calls people to be his disciples. A disciple is a student or an apprentice of another.

Recommended: The Chosen series about the life of Jesus.

II. The Ways Jesus Calls Us

A. Some are called in what seems like a single moment of clarity like the Apostle Paul (Acts 9).

B. Some are called during a season of awakening – the way Jesus heals a blind man (Mark 8:22-26).

C. Some are called through their family’s faith, which eventually they profess as their own like Timothy (2 Timothy 1:3-5).

III. Following Jesus as Disciples

The word “disciple” occurs 269 times in the New Testament. The word “Christian” is found three times and was first introduced to refer to disciples (Acts 11:26).

“The New Testament is a book about disciples, by disciples, and for disciples of Jesus Christ.” – Dallas Willard, *The Spirit of the Disciplines*

“To follow Jesus implies that we enter into a way of life that is given character and shape and direction by the one who calls us. To follow Jesus means picking up rhythms and ways of doing things that are often unsaid but always derivative from Jesus, formed by the influence of Jesus. To follow Jesus means that we can't separate what Jesus is saying from what Jesus is doing and the way that he is doing it. To follow Jesus is as much, or maybe even more, about feet as it is about ears and eyes.” – Eugene Peterson, *The Jesus Way*

“The Jesus way wedded to the Jesus truth brings about the Jesus life.”
– Eugene Peterson, *The Jesus Way*

Our salvation is more personal than transactional. It is both received and embodied in the Way of Jesus.

IV. New Mission.

“Forming disciples who love Jesus and follow his Way.”

Discipleship pathway ...Invitations of Jesus, the practices of Jesus, small groups...

V. It's Your Word Jesus.

Back to the Chosen scene ... Peter to Jesus – “Alright. It's your word.”

Peter's respect for Jesus in that moment was a doorway into a whole new life with Jesus.

“You are the lamb of God, yes?” “I am.”

Discussion questions:

1. What is your response to The Chosen scene on the call of Peter? How does this shape your understanding of being a Christian?
2. Consider Doug's main point: *A Christian is a disciple of Jesus who puts into practice his words and way to be with him and become like him.* How does this fit with your understanding of being a Christian? Was the gospel presented to you in any way that omitted the call to be Jesus' disciple?
3. Does Greenwood's new mission statement (Forming disciples who love Jesus and follow his Way) help you have clarity about our calling as a local congregation? What might be a next step for you as you seek to follow Jesus?