

CHAPTER 21.1

GROW

“A CHURCH WALKING WORTHY”
Ephesians 4:1-16
June 5, 2016

NEXT WEEK

“CALLED TO FOLLOW”
Mk 1:16-20; 2:13-17; Jn 1:35-51

Passage Overview:

Follow me. Two simple words. Radical impact. When these words were spoken from the lips of the Word, Jesus, lives were changed forever. The Spirit of God continues to call out disciples to follow Jesus. But what does it mean to be a follower? Why did these words affect such a dramatic change?

Many rabbis had disciples who sat under their instruction and helped them in their ministry. It was a great honor to follow these great teachers. Students would seek out the best rabbis and would ask to be allowed to follow them as disciples.

But Jesus chose His disciples. While some of them had started following Jesus because of John the Baptist's witness about Him (John 1:35f), they didn't become part of His inner circle until He called them. Jesus' choice in disciples has often been mystifying as well. They were a hodgepodge of characters, most of whom didn't show a lot of promise. In normal circumstances, they probably would never have chosen to be friends. Yet Jesus drew them together.

Each disciple paid a price to follow. It wasn't easy and it wasn't cheap. Too often we want to follow Jesus while we continue on the path of life we have chosen for ourselves. We don't realize that Jesus isn't walking down our path. We must walk down His. He isn't looking for companions. He is looking for disciples.

As you read this week, let these words from the Word penetrate your soul, “Follow me.” Consider the cost. Look at Jesus' path. There is no easy or cheap discipleship.

Then consider the dynamic change of those first twelve disciples. They went from being unknown individuals who were just making it through life to being those who turned the world upside down. The impact of their lives continues to reverberate around the globe today. Followers of Jesus have an impact that goes far beyond what they can offer through their resources or skills. They influence the world in eternal dimensions because they have stepped out of the ordinary into the service of the only true God.

Reading for Next Week: Mark 1:16-20; 2:13-17; John 1:35-51