

## Follow Me, And I Will Make You

**Matthew 4:17-20** (NKJV)

<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

### ***Four Fishermen Called as Disciples***

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> Then He said to them, "**Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.**" <sup>20</sup> They immediately left *their* nets and followed Him.

I want to use that phrase of Jesus as the subject today:

**Follow Me, and I will make you!!!**

I'm aware every time I preach that **I face people who are hurting and suffering, people** who need answers in their life, people who have had heartbreak and tragedy, and **today is no different**.

**You never know** what is going on inside the person that is setting behind you or in front of you.

**Sometimes it may be that a person is in that very service as a last resort.**

- Some of them ready to commit suicide.
- Some of them ready to throw the towel in and quit on every area of life.
- **My business** today is to **be an encourager**,
- To **turn your eyes away from your troubles**
- And **get your eyes on Jesus**, because **Jesus is the answer**.
- He is the answer to **all** of **our problems**.

**This life is preparation for eternity.**

- We're only here for a short time.
- We're here to **prepare for all eternity** with everlasting life.
- While we spend time here, **we don't want to waste it**.
- We **do not** want **our lives to be a failure**.

**We want to do something in life that matters.**

- **The reality** is that sometimes it feels like **we just can't catch traction.**
- Sometimes it feels like **we flop** at **everything** we try.
- Sometimes it seems like **we get knocked down** every time **we try** to get up.

**But, Jesus says to all the hurting, suffering, confused people in life –**

**"Follow Me, and I will make you. I will make you."**

**He has the power to make you what you ought to be!!!**

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**\*One man came to Jesus and said, "I'll follow you, but let me go home and bury my father."**

**What he was saying is...**

- **"Let me stay until he dies.**
- **He's getting older, And it won't be long before he dies.**
- **Let me stay here until he dies; and later on I'll follow You."**

**Jesus said, "Let the dead bury the dead, but you follow Me."**

**\*Another man run up to Him and said, "I'll follow you, Lord, wherever you go only let me go home and say good-bye to my family."**

**Jesus said, "He that puts his hand to the plow and looks back is not fit for the kingdom of God. Follow me."**

**\*In other words, Jesus is saying to people:**

**"Don't play games with Me. If you're going to follow Me...**

**... if you're going to let Me be the Lord of your life...**

**... if you're going to surrender your life to Me, ...be serious.**

**...Make it a one hundred percent commitment.**

**If you are going to follow me, then follow me and me alone.**  
**Follow Me, and I will make you."**

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**We may feel that we have messed up so much that Jesus can't really help us!**

I know it's ***easy to begin to feel like that***, when you look around and you can see a lot of problems, and not many ways out...

- It's easy to begin to feel like that...
- That my friends can't help me
- My family can't help me
- And in my mess - ***I'm not even sure Jesus can help me.***

But, ***I want you to know*** that ***Jesus never gives up.***

- ***You may think*** it's too much, but ***Jesus never gives up.***
- ***Jesus didn't say,***
- ***"Follow me and I will see what I can do"...***
- He said, ***"Follow me , and I WILL MAKE YOU!"***

Oh, I came to speak some Purpose into your life today...

You may already know that there is no way you can work it all out...

You may already know there's no way that any other man can work it all out...

But, I want you to know with assurance today that God can work it all out.

There is a Purpose for your life -

- It's not to live in a prison of ***"Can-Not's"***, and ***Impossibilities...***
- ***The Purpose*** for your life is for you to turn it all over to God
- ***Let Him make you*** something greater than you've ever been before!

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**I think about Michelangelo.**

Michelangelo was standing before a great big rock with his chisel and hammer in his hand.

- Hammering and chiseling away at that unsightly piece of rock.
- And someone asked him ***what he was doing!***
- "What are you doing? What are you doing?"
- " He said, when I look at this rock, ***I see an angel.*** I see an angel trapped in that rock; and you ask me what I'm doing. ***I'm letting him out.***"

You know, your life may be like that. **It may be all messed up.**

- You may be up and out, in and out, down and out.
- You may have made a thousand mistakes.
- You may have scrambled eggs that can never be straightened out.

**When God looks at you -**

- *"I see an angel."*
- *"I see a son and daughter of God."*
- *"I see a successful person."*
- *"I see somebody I can use"... **He's chipping away at your life.***

**"It may hurt."** - But you got to **get the person out** that's inside that rock.

- Chip away. Chip away. Chip away.
- That's what **Jesus** wants to do.

It looks like a mess on the surface, but **God sees something that is deeper than the surface.**

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**When the world** saw David, they saw a little, insignificant shepherd boy.  
**When God** saw David, **he saw a giant killer.**

***I wish some of us could get the attitude that David had that day –***

- *Because when the Israelites said, "**He's too big to fight**" –*
- *David said, "**No, He's too big to miss.**"*

**When the world** saw David, they saw a little boy there that seemed like ***he would never amount to anything.***

But **when God saw him, he saw a king.**

**The world looks at you** and **they may not see much**

**But, When Jesus looks at you –**

- ***He sees*** great possibilities - something deeper - something Greater!
  - And He says, **Follow Me, and I'll make you.**
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**When the world saw the disciples**, they saw dirty, smelly, rough fishermen.

- They saw despised tax collectors.
- They saw fanatical politicians.
- **But when Jesus saw them - - -**
- He saw men who could turn the world upside down with the gospel.

Listen, the message that God has sent to this church today is...

***“Don't worry about what you are, Just Follow Me.”***

***“Put your life in My hands.”***

***“I have the power to make you!”***

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**I think about that demoniac over there in Mark, Chapter 5.**

- He had to be chained.
- He broke the chains.
- He tore his clothes off.
- He ran naked down through the town.
- He howled and screamed, filled with at least 2,000 demons.

I think about that man; and **when the world looked at him**, they say,

- ***“No hope. Write him off: No hope for this man...***
- ***He's a crazy, insane man filled with demons.”***

**But when Jesus saw him, he saw a preacher.**

- **Jesus** crossed over that water, and met that man -
- And **cast the demons out** of him...
- And before they knew what was going on -
- He was clothed sitting in his right mind at the feet of Jesus.

***Let me tell you church, I'm glad to know that God can take something that looks hopeless to the world, and He can shine a new light of Hope into it!***

- ***He can take something that has been infected with the filth of the world, and clean it, and make it Holy again!***
- ***He can take something that looks dead to the world, and breath New Life into it!***

**My Church...**I don't want us to ever get so saved that we forget that **God is still saving folks and fixing situations.**

**I don't want us** to ever get so holy that we forget that **God is still taking to worldly sinners,** and cleaning them up, and fixing their lives.

**Let's get real here...**

- You take me back several years, and I didn't look like much!
- You take YOU back a few years, and you might doubt that YOU would ever be in the church....
- WE didn't seem like much!
- We were all caught up in the garbage that the world offers.
- We were all stuck in the traps of worldliness.

**But something happened –**

**God stepped in and started cleaning us up, and working with us, and I'm so glad that Jesus Lifted Me.**

- He picked me up, and washed me up!
- He changed the direction of my life!
- And as I follow Him, He's still helping me, and guiding me!

**And, if you'll follow Him, He'll do the same for you!**

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**That man that had just been delivered from 2,000 demons was setting there... And he said, "Jesus, let me go back with you."**

He said, "No, you go to the ten towns around here and tell them what great things God has done for you."

And as I look around, there may be people on drugs and alcohol.

**You may be trapped** by illicit desires and abnormal, sexual, deviate things.

- You may look at yourselves one way and the world may put a label on you that says Hopeless and helpless...
- But, Jesus says, "Follow Me, and I will make you."
- I will make you what you ought to be."

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**The world looks at us one way -  
We look at ourselves one way and we get discouraged.**

You know, **Simon came to Jesus**, and ***Jesus looked at him*** and said something very significant.

- He said, "***You are Simon, but you shall be Peter.***"
- "***You are Simon, but you shall be Peter.***"
- You ain't hearing me!!!!!!

- He said, You are, but **you shall be.**
- You are, but **you shall be.**

See, **don't worry** about what you are, just think **about what you shall be.**

I call that the "**Possible you.**"

- I wish I could get somebody to quit thinking about the "***Failing You***"
- Start thinking about the "**Possible You**".

You know, so many people get beaten down by life, abused wives, abused children, incest in the home, alcohol and drugs and rebellion in the lives of people, you know.

- We believe we're just **nothing**.
- *God can never do anything with me.*
- *The church is for good people who do all the right things.*

**No** - The church is a place where **people who have given up can find hope.**

***I know many of you*** feel the hurts and the heartache, and the brokenness of life.

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***You know, Jesus, when he fed the 5,000***, they didn't have any food so He took the little loaves and fishes, just a few of them, and broke them and gave to the disciples and ***He said, Give them out to the crowd.***

- **5,000 men** besides women and children.
- Probably 20-30 thousand people there, **He fed.**
- And then, you know, when it was all over, **He said something very significant.**

He said, "**Pick up the fragments that nothing be lost.**"

**"Jesus, we're tired. We've been feeding these people all day long. We want to sit down. Rest. Go swimming. Sit in a rocking chair."**

He said, "**Pick up the fragments.**"

**"Jesus, you made this bread. You made this fish. Why should you worry about a few little fragments on the ground. We're tired."**

Jesus said, "**Pick up the fragments that nothing be lost.**"

***I want somebody to hear this today.....***

The God that we serve is "**The God who wastes nothing**".

You may today be **bewildered and brokenhearted** and you may have a **fragmented life.**

**Everything's come to pieces in your life** and is fragmented and **you don't know what to do.**

I want you to know **Jesus said, Pick them up. Pick them up. Pick them up.**

I just came to bring you a message from the Lord.

- He didn't say **kick you down.** He said **pick you up.**
- Pick them up. Pick them up.
- **Show them** how to get ahold of me.
- **Let them follow Me,** and I'll make them.

--He's great at taking **broken, and shattered hopes and ambitions,** and ***gluing it all back together again.***

--He's great at taking **fragmented lives, broken in morals, broken financially, broken in every area of life,** and ***putting the pieces of that fragmented life back together again.***

I know many of you feel like **you're fragmented today.**



**Many of you come** with a smile on your face, **but a frown in your heart.**  
Many of you come with victory on your face, **but defeat in your heart.**  
Many of you come with some joy in your face, **but a tear in your heart.**

**If people around you knew what battles you were fighting, the broken heart, the broken dreams, the shattered dreams that you have but, oh, I'm here to tell you, there is One named Jesus who is the miracle worker.**

**He mends broken people and He says, Follow Me, and I will make you.**

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**I think of that scripture about Jesus.**

It's the most beautiful thing that you could ever read in the Bible.  
It says concerning Him **out of Isaiah and quoted in the gospels:**

***"A bruised reed He will not break; a smoking flax He will not quench."***

A bruised reed...**Think of the bruised people in life...**  
...bruised because of **the ups & downs in life...**  
...bruised because of **the storms of life...**  
...bruised and hurt.

But the Bible says: **Jesus will not take you and break you.**  
No! **Jesus will not break a bruised reed.**

He'll say, ***Follow Me, and I will make you.***

- I'll make you to **stand tall again.**
- I'll make you to **stand up strong again.**
- 

**Yes...You're bruised and broken over there, but I can make you stand one more time!**

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And then it says: **A smoking flax.**

Oh, ***it used to burn bright.***

**It used to have such a flame on it, but now the dampening rains of the affairs of life have come down and **the flame is almost gone.****

- It's just a little smoke left.
- A little fire and a little smoke.
- **Jesus didn't say stamp it out.**  
**No! ...a smoking flax, He'll not quench.**

**What will He do?**

- He'll breathe upon you.
- He'll blow upon you.
- He'll walk beside you.
- He'll lift you.
- He'll strengthen you.

I'll tell you, ***He won't put your light out.*** He'll ***turn up the flame.***  
 Follow Me -- follow Me -- follow Me, and ***I will make you.***

**He has all power.**

- He is the **living God**.
- He is the **great I Am**.
- He has **all power** in heaven and in earth.

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You know, I think about the potter in Jeremiah.

It says -- God said to Jeremiah, Go down to the potter's house and I will speak to you there.

And he went down to the potter's house; and the potter was making a vessel, some kind of a vase or something, you know.

And he was working on it and it was beautiful and everything was going real good and as Jeremiah watched, the Bible says, ***"the vessel was marred in his hand."***

**And that's the way life is.**

- There are times when ***we feel so marred*** that ***we think we never will amount to anything.***
- People are marred.
- Some of you are marred... .. marred by life.

The vessel was marred and broken, but I'm so glad for what it says.  
***But the potter made it again another vessel.***

**CLOSE:**

**Let me tell somebody right now...*All hope is not gone.***

- Somebody needs to **hear me and hear me well...**
- I said, ***All Hope is NOT Gone!***
- **All hope is not gone** because you're marred by some failure
- Or by some beating
- Or by some brokenness in your life.
- **He makes it again another vessel.....**

*God said to Jeremiah, "As the clay is in the hands of the potter, so Israel is in My hands."*

**Oh, thank God as the clay is in the hands of the potter, so are we in the hands of Jesus.**

- And we may have our days of marring.
- We may have our disappointments and our storms,
- But ***He will make you again*** another vessel!!

**Praise Team:**

Jesus is **your friend.**

He wants to **save you.**

He wants to **deliver you.**

He wants to **turn those troubled steps into victorious ones.**

- **He'll never give up on you.....**
- You may **be fragmented.**
- You may be a **bruised reed.**
- You may be a **smoking flax.**

You may feel so unworthy or so defeated in so many storms you think you could never get out, but the things that are impossible with man are possible with God.

And I want to encourage you today, ***just give it to the Lord.***

**Follow Me, and I will -- I will -- I will make you.**

