

Matthew 4:18-25

Jesus is Our Everything

If I were to ask you to list the top three things that you value the most what would be on the list? Let me ask you another question, how do you know what you value is really valuable? On this Christmas Day in the year of our Lord 2016 I want to talk to you about something that is of utmost value - I want to talk with you today about a God who loves you, a God who has moved heaven and earth so that you can be with him, a God who has come into the chaos of our lives to give us his own very life. And if he isn't already I want us to all be able to say by the end of this sermon that Jesus is our everything.

READ TEXT

## **1. Jesus Has Come to Call**

Christmas time is one of the busiest times of the year. So busy that it can get so confusing. Chasing here and there for gifts, burning rubber up and down the roads to visit loved ones. Making lists for people to purchase you gifts and then you opening those gifts. Attending the Christmas parade or the live nativity. Attending Christmas Eve services, singing songs, hearing a message.

All of these things are intended to be different, all of these things to tell a wonderful story. But if we are not careful then somehow we can get the idea that Christmas is about us or about others. Now don't misunderstand me, Christmas is about you and is about others but Christmas is about so much more than just you and others. We would have nothing to celebrate had Jesus not come but since he has come we have every reason for celebration, every reason to hope.

Jesus has come to us to call us away from our death to give us life. He has come to us as we are so that he could make us as he is. As Augustine said, The Son of God became Son of Man so sons of men could be sons of God. If he doesn't come the way that he comes then you and I have no hope for anything. But him coming to us means that we can go to where he is.

We could not go to where he was. Our sin made a wall of separation between him and us but Christ has come to us to do for us what we could not do ourselves - to come to us and offer us life. And how does he do it? He calls us to follow him.

Where were you when you heard his call? Have you heard his call? His call is truly life changing. It isn't just a one time call it's an everyday call. He calls you to not look at pornography, to be patient with your spouse and children. He calls you to make a wise choice, to not spend that money, or go into that business deal. He calls you to turn the TV off and pray, to go and visit someone or call them on the phone. Jesus' calls us to follow him and we do just that - respond to his call and follow him.

You see:

## **2. Jesus' Call Changes Everything**

I love this. We see Jesus right out of the gate changing peoples lives. See how his call changes everything. But look at how casual it all is. Here is Jesus walking by the Sea of Galilee when he comes upon fisherman doing what fisherman do best, fishing. But this is not some random encounter, this is the Savior of the Universe seeking and saving lost ones. When we know Jesus our perspective changes.

### **A. Changes Our Perspectives**

All of a sudden there is nothing that is insignificant. The gentlest whisper can be his leading you. Jesus doesn't go to the synagogue or to the university. He doesn't go to the army barracks. Jesus goes to the shoreline of a sea to pick fishermen to do his bidding. You may be in the university, the synagogue, or the army barracks, and you may think that you are insignificant or that God could never use you but learn from this encounter little is much when God is in it.

Nothing else really matters when you see how great God is. The troubles that used to worry you are no worry anymore. When Jesus looks upon you where you are and calls your name and tells you to follow him everything changes, especially your perspective. If someone who was wise according to this worlds standards were to write the story they may have gone to some other place but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise and what is weak to share the strong.

The spotlight is going to come again on these fishermen except this time they are not going to be known as fishermen. They are arrested for preaching Jesus as being risen from the dead. One of my favorite verses in all of Scripture is Acts 4:13. Listen to it. *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.*

DL Moody said, “a Christian on his knees can see more than a philosopher on his tip toes.” Henry Varley, British revivalist said, “The world has yet to see what God can do with a man fully consecrated to him. By God’s help, I am to be that man.” There is no such thing as insignificance with a life that is lived in response to God’s call. His call changes the way we see everything. Men who fall in love with Jesus are those who you see serving him with everything that they are. They are the ones that the rest of the world may see as crazy and in reality they are. they are crazy in love with a God who has called them to himself and they have embraced that call.

## **B. Changes Our Priorities**

All that they once held dear is nothing in comparison with knowing Jesus. We don't see them having second thoughts about following Jesus we simply see them stop doing what they are doing to do what Jesus says. They had no idea that they were going to be used to launch a worldwide religion of peace. Peter had no idea that the largest church in the world would be erected in his memory. Peter had no idea that later he would deny the very same Lord that called him, had no idea that he would preach the gospel of salvation first/ Had no idea that he would be crucified by the same people that crucified Jesus for saying that Jesus has risen from the dead and he is Lord. Andrew had no idea that entire countries like Scotland and Russia would use him as their patron saint. Andrew had no idea that the Lord would use the fish and loaves that he found from a small boy to feed over 5,000 people. Andrew had no idea that he too would be crucified for preaching in Greece that the crucified Jesus had risen from the dead.

They were fishermen but God would use them to do a new kind of fishing. Jesus would change their entire priority from fishing for fish to casting a net through preaching the hopeful message of Jesus and saving men from their sinfulness and the wrath to come. As Jesus was sent to call he would send them out to call men to follow Jesus. Jesus’ call changes everything.

Think with me. Can you think of anything more important than following Jesus? Here's the question. Would you rather catch fish or see lives forever changed? The answer sounds simple but in reality most choose fishing. Most choose something they think is simpler but in doing so they miss out on what life is all about. Life is about serving Jesus. Life is about saying wherever he leads I'll go. You don't have to settle for catching fish when the God of heaven and earth has called you to serve him.

If this were any other person of any other thing we should be hesitant about giving ourselves entirely to him. But remember who he is. This is Jesus, God's eternal Son, the creator of life, the one who took on flesh, was born of a virgin, who lived a sinless life, who died on the cross, who rose from the dead, who is coming again to judge the living and the dead and establish his kingdom for forever. And in his kingdom there is no more sin no more sickness, no more death and disease, no more depression or any need for medication. There is no hatred or violence, there is no bigotry or racism. No more politics, no more fighting, bickering or battling. You see. Jesus is our Everything because

### **3. Jesus Has Come to Be Everything**

He changes the world, reorders the world. When Jesus comes heaven and earth meet. In Revelation, when we see a picture of the new heavens and earth, the focus is all in one place - Jesus. In Revelation Jesus says, *Behold, I am making all things new.* (Revelation 21:5) What is heaven? Heaven is wherever Jesus is. Heaven is us being with him for forever in his kingdom, in his new world. He has come to establish the world, he has come to be everything, our God who is all in all.

I wonder this Christmas morning if you can confidently say that Jesus is your everything, that there is nothing that you delight in and desire more than Jesus? Have you heard his voice calling you? He's calling sometimes it's softly and tenderly but still he's calling, pleading for you and for me. Come home to Jesus. He is everything but is he everything to you?