

TEXT: Matthew 4:18-22; John 1:35-42

TITLE: THE FREEDOM OF EXCLUSION

INTRODUCTION

Many Christians never reach their potential because of a misconception about discipleship. "Discipleship without Christ is the way of our own choosing...it may be the ideal way but it is devoid of all promise. Jesus will certainly reject it." (Bonhoeffer)

T.S... You have the freedom to remain in your old situation and exclude yourself from the faith possibility.

BODY

I. THE FAITH POSSIBILITY

"Follow Me" The call to follow produces the faith situation. To stay in the old situation makes discipleship impossible.

Follow: No program, no calculation, no agenda...The faith step...

ILL.... I will make you to become...Without the faith step toward new possibility, you will not become...What the Lord desires for your life.

APPL... Faith, Fellowship and Followship require:

Response: Out of a finite situation into an infinite possibility - so often our life is only in response to fact and figures - Self, not the Savior, in control.

Re-arranged Priorities: They left their nets and followed Him...Often times there must be a radical change in order to follow Jesus.

Resolution to a lifestyle: These men had staying power. They were committed.

T.S... To stay in the old situation makes discipleship impossible.

II. DISCIPLESHIP COMMITMENT

"A disciple is one who takes the teachings and principles of another and applies them to their own life."

Discipleship is not a call to just believe in a doctrinal system.

Discipleship is not stagnate, it is dynamic, a maturing relationship with Jesus Christ.

APPL... "Follow Me"

**"Me" - The Ultimate Authority; the Creator
You are coming to the Creator.**

ILL... I Peter 2:21 - "...leaving us an example that you should follow in his steps."

APPL... Suppose Matthew had simply stayed in his tax office when Jesus called. Jesus may have become his "help in time of trouble" but never the Lord of his life.

APPL... Although Peter could not have achieved his own conversion, he could leave his nets.

APPL... Suppose James and John had not left their boat. Jesus could have become to them only a famous

figure in history.

T.S..... They left and many of you are going to do the same today.

CONCLUSION

Each one of you has the freedom of exclusion. You can simply not answer the call of Christ. You can stay in your own situation which makes discipleship impossible.

Each one of you can become what Christ desires for your life if you will answer the call which opens the door of faith - fellowship - followship.