**Week 3: “Follow Me”**

This call is important because He’s still saying the same thing to us today. Think about the early disciples, they didn’t know everything we “know” about Jesus and yet they left EVERYTHING to follow Him. (And He still called them to follow Him & leave everything even though they didn’t know everything about Him). He has this same call on us. Would we recognize His worth and leave everything to follow Him?

Start:

We talked about repentance last week and saw that it is to turn AWAY from sin and TOWARDS God; this is the only way to enter the Kingdom that the Messiah brings. It’s important that we understand what it really means to *turn to God.* After preaching repentance, Jesus began to call His disciples to Himself. This is what it means to turn to God: to receive and answer His call to follow Him.

^^^as we look into Jesus’ call to follow Him, let’s be looking for both the cost and the worth of following Him so we can get a full picture of what He’s calling us to

Passages:

-Matt 4:18-22 (v 17 is repentance… So following Him is the immediate action after repentance)... this starts with the disciples, but obviously He is there for more people (v 23… they went all over preaching)

^^So what does Jesus say when the “more/many” want to follow Him? [Here we see the cost]

* Matt 8:18-22/Lk 9:57-62 (note Matt 8:22 & Lk 9:60 are the same… aka follow me=proclaim the Kingdom… and the Kingdom is clearly not just words, but who we saw the Messiah to be in lesson 1 & 2 which demands your life and actions; following Him is living His Kingdom)
* Lk 14:25-35

-After Matt 16 passage from lesson 1 on Jesus being the Messiah comes the call to follow Him: Matt 16:24-28 [This is where we begin to see the worth (HIM!) as even greater than the cost. He is our life, our good, our reward—Ps 73:25-28]

-Matt 13:44-46… Jesus is always after people’s HEARTS. He gave up His life to purchase us back for God (Revelation 5:9) and asks that we would give our lives in response. He wants to be our greatest desire because He’s worthy of that! (“God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him”—John Piper)

\*\*\*End: when we know this truth^^, we will answer like His disciples in John 6:66-69… where else would we go?!

-Test (together or as ‘homework’): In what ways have you counted the cost to follow Jesus? Explain your understanding of giving up your life for His sake. How does your life showcase His worthiness to be followed? Is His presence truly your greatest good?