

PASTOR'S CORNER- COME FOLLOW ME

A Father's Day Message

Matthew 4:18-24

Father's Day gives us an opportunity to honor the men who have shaped our lives. **We celebrate fathers, grandfathers, and spiritual fathers** whose **love, sacrifice, wisdom, and prayers continue to impact us**. The truth is that every man leaves a legacy. The question is not whether we will leave one, but what kind of legacy we will leave.

The greatest legacy is not what we leave behind for people, but what we leave in people. A godly father leaves faith, character, integrity, and a love for Jesus in the hearts of those he influences.

When Jesus walked along the Sea of Galilee, He called ordinary fishermen to follow Him. Their decision to answer that call changed their lives forever and ultimately changed the world. In their story, we discover four qualities that help fathers leave a lasting legacy.

I. Following Jesus Calls for Faithful Men

When Jesus found Peter, Andrew, James, and John, they were faithfully working. They were not searching for recognition or waiting for opportunity to come to them. They were simply doing what was in front of them.

Throughout Scripture, God often calls people while they are faithfully serving.

- David was tending sheep,
- Moses was caring for his father-in-law's flock,
- and the shepherds were watching over their sheep when God interrupted their ordinary day.

Faithfulness may not seem exciting, but it is one of the greatest qualities a father can possess.

Faithfulness looks like keeping your word, loving your family, showing up consistently, and serving God through every season of life.

Many children will forget specific conversations, but they never forget the example of a faithful father. God is not asking fathers to be perfect; He is asking them to be faithful. The opportunities God gives tomorrow are often built upon the faithfulness we demonstrate today.

Be faithful where God has placed you. Your daily obedience is building a legacy that will outlive you.

II. Following Jesus Helps Fathers Discover Their Purpose

Jesus said, **"Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."**

This invitation was more than a call to learn information. It was a call to transformation. Jesus chose these men and promised to shape them into something greater than they could become on their own.

The encouraging part of the invitation is the phrase, **“I will make you.”** Jesus did not ask them to fix themselves first. He simply asked them to follow Him. A father's greatest purpose is not merely to provide for his family. ***His greatest purpose is to lead his family closer to Christ.*** Our children do not need perfect fathers; they need fathers who are pursuing Jesus.

In a world that often promotes unrealistic images of family life, God is not looking for picture-perfect homes. He is looking for men who will follow Him faithfully and allow Him to work through their imperfections.

One of the greatest gifts you can give your family is your personal relationship with Jesus. When your children see you following Christ, they learn how to follow Him too.

III. Following Jesus Requires Letting Go

The Bible tells us that these fishermen **immediately left their nets and followed Jesus.** Their nets represented security, comfort, and everything that was familiar. Yet they trusted Jesus enough to let go of what they knew so they could embrace what God had for them. Following Jesus always involves surrender. We cannot fully move forward while clinging to the things that hold us back.

For some fathers, the **“net”** may be fear, pride, anger, disappointment, unhealthy habits, or past failures. Spiritual growth begins where surrender begins.

The fishermen left their nets, but what they gained was far greater than what they left behind. The same remains true today. Whatever Jesus asks us to release, He always has something better waiting on the other side of obedience.

IV. Following Jesus Enables Fathers to Influence Others

After calling His disciples, Jesus immediately brought them into His mission. Matthew tells us that Jesus taught, preached, and healed people throughout Galilee.

The disciples quickly learned that following Jesus was never just about their own growth. It was about helping others follow Him as well. A healthy tree does not produce fruit for itself. Its fruit benefits others. In the same way, a father's walk with God impacts everyone around him. His faith strengthens his home, influences his children, and leaves a legacy for future generations.

Psalms 128: 1-3 paints a beautiful picture of a home blessed by a man who fears the Lord. When a father follows Jesus, his influence extends far beyond himself and becomes a blessing to his family.

Never underestimate your influence. Every prayer, every act of faithfulness, and every example of obedience matters more than you realize. Jesus called ordinary fishermen, but because they said yes to His invitation, their influence reached far beyond their own lifetime. The same call still goes out today: **“Follow Me.”**

When one man fully follows Jesus, a family can be changed. A generation can be impacted.

A legacy can be established that points people to Christ long after he is gone.

The question is not whether Jesus is calling. The question is how we will respond.

Closing Challenge

Fathers, what part of the net are you still holding on to?

Maybe it is fear, guilt, disappointment, pride, or something that is keeping you from fully following Christ. Today, Jesus invites you to let go and trust Him.

You do not have to be perfect. You simply need to be willing.

A faithful father, pursuing Jesus, letting go of what hinders him, and helping others follow Christ leaves a legacy that lasts forever.