

## THE FIRST DISCIPLES: FOLLOW ME

**INTRODUCTION**

Are you a follower of Jesus? Have you ever given your life to Christ and chosen to pursue Him to the ends of the earth? The reason this is important is because that is what the Lord calls every Christian to do as demonstrated in the lives of the first disciples that are mentioned in the Gospel of John. In order to see that, we are going to look at “3 Lessons that We Learn about Following Jesus from Them.”

**1. Following Jesus Begins When You Listen (verses 35-38).**

Because there were multitudes of people going out into the desert to hear John the Baptist preach. However, when John pointed to Jesus and told them “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” in verse 29, only two of them ended up following Jesus back to where He was staying. Why? Because they listened. They did not ignore his words. They took what John said to heart and responded in faith and the Lord blessed them for it.

(Discussion Question: Is it hard for people to listen to the Word of God today? Why / Why not? What are some things that prevent you from listening to it and what can you do to change that?)

## **2. Following Jesus Leads to Change (verses 39-43).**

Because, as these men followed Jesus, their lives were forever altered. In fact, Jesus even changed one of their names from “Simon” to “Peter” or a from “a reed” to “a rock” in order to show that Peter would never be the same again after this. His job would change and his name would change. His heart would change and so would his future plans and aspirations.

(Discussion Question: The sermon mentioned several other times when Jesus told someone to “follow Him” in the Gospel of John and it changed them. What were they and can you think of any others?)

## **3. Following Jesus Leads to Salvation (verses 44-51).**

After all, that is what these men were following Jesus for. They were not following Jesus because it was easy. They really wanted to go to Heaven so that is what the Lord promised to do for them by saying “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels ascending and descending on the Son of Man (verse 51).”

(Discussion Question: What does verse 51 mean and why does Jesus refer to Himself as the stairway to heaven? What do you have to do to get to God? Who do you need to believe in to take you there and how does that shed light on what this is saying?)