

Outline for February 2, 2012 (Luke 5:27-32) - "Follow Me"

Introduction: The call of Levi (Matthew) to follow the Lord Jesus ushers us into the mandates and message of the Kingdom of God. The call upon Matthew's life and upon our lives is radical. When the Lord calls men and woman to Himself, He leaves nothing undone or unchanged. The gospel of grace is liberating and life changing while, at the same time, it is demanding and enslaving. To embrace the gospel is to embrace Jesus as Lord and King. We become slaves to this magnanimous King and Lord. Our allegiance and loyalty moves away from self and the things of the world to the magnificent supremacy of Christ and His superior value over all things. Everything in our lives changes.

I. Luke's preface and the introduction of John the Baptist and Jesus (1:1-2:52)

II. Preparation for Ministry: the supremacy of God in the fullness of time (3:1-4:13)

III. The Galilean Ministry (4:14-9:50)

A. Summary of the Galilean ministry (4:14-15)

B. Preaching in Nazareth (4:16-30)

C. The necessity of preaching the good news of the kingdom of God (4:31-44)

D. Gathering of disciples (5:1-6:16)

1. The remarkable providence of God (5:1, 12, 17)

2. The miraculous catch of fish and Peter (5:1-11)

3. The sovereignty, authority and mercy of King Jesus (5:12-16)

4. An amazing confrontation (5:16-17)

5. "We have seen extraordinary (strange) things today (5:18-26)

6. Levi the tax collector (5:27-32)

a. Levi – Matthew

1) His status in society

- Classified with murderers and robbers
- Outcast from society
- Disqualified as a judge or witness in court
- Excommunicated from the synagogue
- Disgrace extended to his family

2) His status before God

- Elect – "went out and saw..."
- Effectually called – "Follow Me"
- Repentant – "leaving everything"
- Saving faith – "followed"
- Worship – "made Him a great feast"
- Witness – "large company of..."

b. "Follow Me"

1) Definition

- To cleave to
- To conform to (I Peter 2:21)
- To side with (I Chronicles 12)
- To go hard after

2) Confirmation

- Realize you are sick and need a (the) Physician
- Repent
- "leave everything" – total allegiance to Christ, forsake all for Christ daily, total rearrangement of priorities
- Learn what it means – "I desire steadfast love not sacrifice" (Matthew 9:13)

- Worship – rest in, trust fully in Christ’s finished work (John 10:27; Psalm 23)