

## THE CALL OF CHRIST

Mark 3:7-19 Rev. Brian W. Secor  
Broadway Christian Church February 1, 2015

When Christ calls, his people \_\_\_\_\_.

1. His sheep hear his voice—gentle, powerful, encouraging, challenging, inspiring—and they follow him.

### I. THE CONTEXT OF THE CALL OF CHRIST

A. It was a time of \_\_\_\_\_.

B. It was a time of \_\_\_\_\_ deliverance.

C. It was a time of \_\_\_\_\_ towards him.

D. It was a time of \_\_\_\_\_.

### II. THE PURPOSE OF THE CALL OF CHRIST

A. He called these men for three purposes.

1. That they might be with \_\_\_\_\_.
2. That they might be sent out to \_\_\_\_\_ the Gospel.
3. That they might be engaged in \_\_\_\_\_ warfare.

B. He has called us too for the exact same purposes to be his disciples.

1. "There were twelve disciples Jesus called to help him — Simon Peter, Andrew, James, his brother John; Philip, Thomas, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddeus, Simon, Judas and Bartholomew. He has called us too, he has called us too, we are his disciples I am one and you. He has called us too, he has called us too, we are his disciples, I am one and you!" **George Minor, 1880.**
2. This call to the disciples is the \_\_\_\_\_ call that comes to every one of us who will follow him & be his disciple.
3. We are called to be \_\_\_\_\_ him.
  - a. He does not need us nearly as much as we need \_\_\_\_\_. What will this mean? It will mean we---
    - i) Make time for personal \_\_\_\_\_ reading & \_\_\_\_\_.
    - ii) Will be faithful & helpful in our \_\_\_\_\_ in the body of Christ.
    - iii) Will celebrate this \_\_\_\_\_ meal, the Lord's Supper, with joy & delight, anticipating his return.
4. We are called to \_\_\_\_\_ the Gospel. By word & deed our glorious privilege is to share the Gospel—God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. For God sent not his Son into this world to condemn the world but to save the world through him. **John 3:16-17**
  - a. As disciples who have heard the call of Christ it is our glorious privilege to be his \_\_\_\_\_ in our homes, at our jobs, in our communities & if he permits to the very ends of the earth. Not just for ministers & pastors. It is for the rank & file, all who have heard the call of the King & said yes.
  - c. Christian discipleship is not man's whim but \_\_\_\_\_ commission. He has, like he did those first twelve, chosen you that you might be fruitful for the Kingdom with fruit that lasts.

5. We are called by Christ to be engaged in \_\_\_\_\_ warfare.
  - a. Behaviors we try to explain away by chalking it up to bad environment or upbringing or explain away by simply resigning ourselves to accept them as youthful & human indiscretions are not that at all. Source of all evil in us & in this world is the devil & our sinful condition.
  - b. We each bear terrible responsibility that we have done those things we ought not to have done & left undone those things we ought to have done
  - c. We are clear headed when it comes to the existence, power, & influence of the \_\_\_\_\_ in our world. People commit horrible acts because they are demonically controlled & inspired. Our call is to confront those evil forces & help those in our streets, our homes, our mental hospitals to find Christ. Have you heard his call?

### III. \_\_\_\_\_ OF THOSE WHO RESPOND TO THE CALL OF CHRIST.

A. The group he called were interesting characters.

1. **Peter, James and John.** The \_\_\_\_\_ circle. Fishermen by trade, Jesus gave them nicknames—wavering Peter, the Rock; volatile James & John, the sons of thunder.
2. **The eight others.**
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ **the tax collector:** he was wealthy no doubt but he left it all to follow Jesus & gain treasure that could not be lost.
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ **the skeptic:** when introduced to Jesus by Philip, response was "Can anything good come from Nazareth?"
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ **the Zealot.** Man of passion & pride. Favored Jewish national state, a political solution. We need men like him who with zeal according to knowledge push the church to be more involved in things than it would like to be.
3. \_\_\_\_\_: one who would betray him. Throughout centuries there has been much speculation on why Jesus ever chose him. When Jesus called him, he had potentialities & evidently a sincere devotion. Like seed sown on bad soil, it was choked out by the cares of this world & the failure of Jesus to do what he wanted him to do. Judas let his heart be hardened & chose the dark road which led him to betray the Savior. Judas teaches all of us to heed Paul's admonition: "Let him that thinks he stands take heed lest he fall." **I Cor.10:12**

B. **Thank God for the \_\_\_\_\_ people Christ calls!**

1. So Christ called his disciples & laid the foundation upon which his most Holy Church would be built, himself being the chief cornerstone. I thank God for the fact when Jesus called the ones he called, he called such a diverse group of people & that he still does that today.
2. Look around you. \_\_\_\_\_ do you see? People brought into one body by the call of Christ. People of various backgrounds, lifestyles, experiences. People who have come to this place in time & space by a variety of paths but all here because of the call of Christ.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ makes mockery of diversity. They really don't like it. Want everyone to be the same—bland mix of perversion & haters of God
4. How different, how radiantly glorious is the Church of Christ. Saved by his blood; called by his sovereign choice, united in hope, faith & doctrine; sharing this holy meal; united across time & space w/ millions upon millions; looking forward to the blessed hope of the Lord's return — how privileged, how privileged we are to belong to him & to one another!
5. Dear ones, let us praise God for our brothers & sisters—seen & unseen. Unique & diverse, he brings us \_\_\_\_\_ by the call of the Kingdom.

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