

## Jesus Calls Others to Join Him (Retreat part 19)

Scripture for the week: Jesus chooses four fishermen [Mark 1:16-20](#); Jesus takes Peter deeper [Luke 5:1-11](#); Jesus chooses Matthew [Matthew 9:9-13](#); The first disciples of Jesus [John 1:35-42](#); Jesus chooses Philip and Nathanael [John 1:43-51](#); Jesus chooses his twelve apostles [Mark 3:13-19](#); Instructions for the twelve apostles [Luke 9:1-6](#); The work of the seventy-two followers [Luke 10:1-12](#); Some who wanted to go with Jesus [Luke 9:57-62](#); A rich young man can't follow Jesus [Matthew 19:16-28](#)

As Jesus reveals his story to us, we can't help becoming drawn to him. This week, we have the privilege of contemplating Jesus as the one who calls companions to service with him. If we were inclined, in the past, to view God's calls to us as obligations about which we might be ambivalent, we are hopefully not there now. In this retreat, we are growing in a sense of such attraction to the person of Jesus and his way of responding to his own call from God. We are being drawn to be with him with deep desire.

The Scripture readings this week give us the text of various calls that the Gospel writers present for us. Throughout this week, let them flow in and out of consciousness. Any time we can take to prayerfully imagine any of these scenes will enrich the week. We can enter into the scenes, to see and to hear, to be caught up in the drama of the call-and-response.

This week's real power is in our ability to let it be one in which we become keenly faithful, throughout each day, to a sense of Jesus' being with us in our day. As I awake, prepare for the day, go to do my work, interact with people, take breaks, experience a range of emotions, make mistakes, struggle to be zealous, find opportunities to be compassionate, make tough decisions, experience the joy of loving and being loved, and return to sleep with grateful prayer — in all of my day — I can savor the reality of Jesus calling me to join him in saying “yes.”

We are experiencing the power of this retreat. Praying regularly for the grace to know him more intimately, to fall in love with him more deeply, and to be drawn into the pattern of his own life more completely does indeed transform our lives. Love changes the way we make choices because love changes what we desire. The more we fall in love with Jesus the more we love what he loves. Being with him becomes a growing desire.

Our journey this week will call us to rearrange the choices of our lives to allow us to be more and more with Jesus. The one who asks us, “What are you looking for?” knows our answer, and always invites us to “Come, follow me.”

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### Pray in these or similar words...

Dear Jesus,

I hear your call to me. I feel so deeply how you love and desire me to be with you in this journey. I watch as you call the disciples lovingly and with such friendship. You teach them and send them out into the world to heal and spread your message.

As I read about how you call the fishermen on the shore, I too hear your call. I want to go with you. I follow you down the beach, and you stop and turn so gently and look at me with such love. “What do you want?” you ask me.

I stand there on the beach in my bare feet and try to articulate what I feel in my heart. I want to go with you where you are going. I want to make choices in my life that bring me closer to you and make my life more like yours. I want to walk with you into towns, into marketplaces, even into the places in my own life that frighten me.

I feel your call to me in such a direct, personal way and I see you loving me so deeply as I try to conform my life to yours. I know I am making a decision to adapt my life, to see things with your eyes, to make choices differently. And I see you watching me with love as I make these changes.

My dear, loving friend: Thank you for calling me to be with you so closely. Thank you for wanting me with you. Thank you for giving me this deep desire to be with you. My love for you is growing with each passing week, as we become better and dearer friends and as I feel your love for me. I want to be with you in a new and deeper way. Teach me. Let me live each day realizing that you are with me always, even when I fail in my desires. Allow me to feel you leading me in front and guiding me from behind.

Stay with me, dear one. Let me feel your love. Let me say “yes” to you. Thank you for staying so close to my side.