

TAKING THE NEXT STEP

The Journey of Jesus, Part 3

Pastor Ken Ritz * October 14, 2018 * New Life Vineyard Church

*... news about him spread through the whole countryside.
... He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.*
Luke 4:14-15

Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them.
Luke 4:38-39

At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them.
Luke 4:40-41

*As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him.
Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.*
Matthew 4:18-22

*One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."
Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down*

*the nets." When they had done so they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.
When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"
For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.
Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people."
So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him. Luke 5:1-11*

Four Phases of Following Jesus

1. _____
(come to church, read a book, think about it)
2. _____
(bible study, prayer, despite inconvenience)
3. _____
(take a step of faith, make a change)
4. _____
(surrender your whole life)

**You have no idea what hangs in the balance,
when you decide whether or not
to take that next step.**

Whatever your next step is, take it!

When you say "yes" to Jesus, he takes responsibility for the outcome of the journey.