

Sermon Notes:

Series: Marks of a Disciple, # 3

To Follow, Leave

The poet Robert Frost in his well known The Road Not Taken, said:
Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
I took the one less traveled by
And that has made all the difference.

His observation is true in each one of our lives, we come to a fork and have to decide, it is not possible for the same traveler to go down both roads.

This decision was real for twelve men who followed Jesus, in a literal way that we do not experience. Reflection: when you read the life altering decision these men made to become disciples (Scripture passages on the other side), clearly it means something different for you to follow Jesus. So meditate on that and write your answer – what does it mean for me to follow Jesus?

Jesus said: “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.” Luke 9:62 What do you think he meant?

Is leaving your past and following Jesus, a one time decision? Or, as you live the Christian life, are there additional moments of decision, of resolve, of deciding again? What do you sense the Holy Spirit saying to you about that, today?

Matthew 4:18-22 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 8:18-22 When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake. Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." Another disciple said to him, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus told him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

Luke 5:27-32 After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Luke 6:12-16 One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles: Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor