

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Matthew 4:18-25

"Follow Me: The Sovereign Call of the King"

Preaching Date: May 3, 2026

Opening Prayer

Ask God to give us humble hearts under the authority of Christ, and to see Jesus as the sovereign King who calls sinners to Himself, and makes weak disciples useful. Ask Him to expose anything we are keeping above Him: work, family, money, comfort, reputation, private sin, or our own plans.

Recap

In Matthew 4:18-25, Jesus begins to gather His disciples. He calls ordinary fishermen to follow Him. Peter and Andrew leave their nets. James and John leave the boat and their father. Christ claims first place over every lawful attachment.

Jesus then goes throughout Galilee teaching in the synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and sickness. His miracles show His compassion and His authority over the misery brought by the fall. His fame spreads, and large crowds follow Him. But there is a difference between following the crowd around Jesus and following Jesus as a true disciple.

Understanding the Text

1. Why is it significant that Jesus calls ordinary fishermen rather than beginning with men of religious status or public influence?
2. What does this passage teach us about Christ's initiative in calling sinners to Himself?
3. What does Jesus mean when He says, "Follow Me"?
4. Jesus says, "I will make you fishers of men." What does this teach us about both our weakness and Christ's power to make His disciples useful?
5. Peter and Andrew "immediately" left their nets, and James and John their boat and father. Why is it important to recognize that these are "lawful" things.
6. How can we guard this passage from two errors: legalism on one side and shallow, costless discipleship on the other?
7. Verse 23 summarizes Jesus' ministry as teaching, proclaiming, and healing. Why must these be held together when we think about Christ's kingdom?
8. What do Jesus' healings reveal about His compassion, His authority, and the coming restoration of all things?
9. Verse 25 says that large crowds followed Him. What is the difference between being part of the crowd around Jesus and being a true disciple of Jesus?

Personal Reflection & Application

1. What “nets” are you most tempted to put before Christ? Consider work, money, comfort, reputation, future plans, hobbies, or private habits.
2. Are there any lawful things in your life that have become ruling things? How can you tell when a good gift has become an idol?
3. Is there any obedience you are delaying while calling it caution, wisdom, timing, or carefulness?
4. How does Christ’s promise, “I will make you,” encourage you in areas where you feel weak, fearful, or unqualified?
5. What would immediate obedience look like for you this week?

God Has More to Say

Christ’s sovereign call

Genesis 12:1-3

Exodus 3:1-12

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Isaiah 6:1-8

John 15:16

Following Christ

Matthew 8:18-22

Matthew 10:37-39

Matthew 16:24-26

Luke 9:57-62

John 12:26

Lawful things, idols, and costly obedience

Genesis 22:1-14

1 Kings 19:19-21

Matthew 6:19-24

Matthew 19:16-30

Hebrews 11:24-26

Justification, grace, and obedient faith

Romans 3:21-28

Romans 5:1-2

Galatians 2:16

Ephesians 2:8-10

James 2:14-26

Mission and witness

Matthew 9:35-38

Matthew 28:18-20

Luke 24:45-49

Acts 1:8

Romans 10:13-17

Christ’s authority over sickness, demons, and death

Isaiah 35:3-6

Matthew 8:14-17

Matthew 12:22-29

Mark 5:1-20

Revelation 21:1-5

Crowds and true discipleship

Matthew 7:21-23

Matthew 13:1-23

John 2:23-25

John 6:60-69

2 Corinthians 13:5