

“Off the Couch and On the Field”

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Sunday August 18, 2019: AM Service

Scripture Text: Mark 1:14-20

4 Simple Words to move us to get ‘on the field’:

AVAILABILITY

- God doesn’t choose the best; He chooses the willing
- Jesus chose the ‘B-Team’ because His work in the world wouldn’t come from their abilities but their availability
- God doesn’t need your **ability** – He requires only your **availability**

AUTHORITY

- Jesus had ONE urgent message to His disciples before His ascension into Heaven: **“Be My witnesses unto the uttermost part of the earth”**
- Christians should be encouraged to know this: **YOU ARE NOT ALONE**
- Christ told His disciples: **“I will be with you.”**
- Christ’s *Great Commission*: **“All *power* is given unto Me in heaven and in earth”**
- Jesus’ authority is **foundational to our mission**
- Apart from His authority, we have no hope in accomplishing the dual task of **evangelism** and **discipleship**
- We have no reason to remain on ‘the couch’

ABANDONMENT

- *Mark 1:18*
- To follow Christ means to **leave it all**
- James and John left their **boat** and their **father**
- These represent 2 most significant things in our lives: **your career, and your most significant relationship**

- Jesus' point: to follow Me, I must take **precedence** over both of those things

Are you engaging in His mission?

There are 3 stages of Jesus' ministry:

1. "Come and see"
2. "Come and die"
3. "Go and tell"

ASTONISHMENT

Parallel Bible passage: Luke 5:1-9

Jesus performed a miracle to teach His disciples a lesson about **fishing for men**

4 Steps:

1. **"Launch out into the deep"**
2. **Depend upon Jesus**
3. **"Let down the net"**
4. **"Master, we have toiled all night and have taken nothing"**

Conclusion

You don't know what God may do.

Fishers of men: it involves souls spending an eternity in heaven – or hell.