



**Sermon Outline**  
**January 7, 2024**  
**Pastor Bryan Myers**

**Come,  
Follow Me**  
**Matthew 4:18-22**

\* **The dictionary definition of encounter:** *to meet (someone) without expecting or intending to.*

\* **Series definition:** A \_\_\_\_\_ or unexpected interaction with Jesus in the four gospels that was life changing.

\* **Encounter Challenge:** Read through the four accounts of the Life of Jesus in **Matthew, Mark, Luke & John** by the end of March – **89** chapters in **91** days.

\* **The encounters with Jesus from centuries ago are uncannily relevant and insightful to us—**\_\_\_\_\_.

\* *While Christianity would be considered one of the major world religions, its foundation is not based upon religiosity but on a \_\_\_\_\_ with the living Christ.*

**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.

### **Encounter Observations:**

**1. Both sets of brothers left what they were doing "at once" and "immediately" and \_\_\_\_\_.**

**2. It seemed so abrupt that they must have had \_\_\_\_\_ encounters with Jesus.**

**John 1:35-37** - The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.

**3. They couldn't have known where their lives were \_\_\_\_\_ when they decided to follow Jesus.**

\* *Their profession as fishermen, was about to experience a major redirection to becoming "fishers of men."*

\* **When God calls you, either respond accordingly or you don't, and either decision will have \_\_\_\_\_ implications on your life and your eternity.**

**Hebrews 9:28** - So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

\* **Bryan's recollection of his decision to follow Christ at eight years old:**

**1. I knew I had \_\_\_\_\_.**

**2. I knew Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ to forgive my sin.**

**3. I knew I was \_\_\_\_\_ and committing my life to Him.**

**Following Jesus isn't about jumping through \_\_\_\_\_. It's about taking \_\_\_\_\_.**

\* **For those who are already Christ followers:**

- *When and where were you when you had your encounter with Jesus that prompted your decision to follow him?*

- *Has your decision turned out the way you thought it would?*

\* **For those who are not yet Christ followers:**

- *Have there been encounters when you've felt God's call on your life?*

- *What has kept you from deciding to follow Him?*