

Follow Jesus In Your Work and Ministry (Matthew 4:17-22)

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Guidelines: Protect confidentiality and follow the leader's prompts

Lectio Divina Rhythms/Process (Repeat three times):

- (a) Read the Scripture passage ("Lectio")
- (b) Reflect on the focus question below ("Meditatio")
- (c) Respond in quiet prayer/journaling ("Oratio")
- (d) Rest in God's invitation for you then pray/share out loud if you want ("Contemplatio")

Introduction: Peter, Andrew, James, and John were fishermen. It was their trade and they worked hard at it with their hands to provide food for themselves, their families, and their neighbors. They had been introduced to Jesus and were drawn to him and his Gospel (John 1:35-42). Then he invited them to follow him to learn how to fish for souls. To catch souls is very different than catching fish! They needed to learn how to care for people, attending to their feelings and needs. They needed to learn how to rely on God's love and power, rather than only their own strength and skill. They were excited to become Jesus' apprentices and to follow his lead on this new and challenging adventure!

Opening Prayer: Jesus says, "Come, follow me." (Matt. 4:19, NIV).

Read Scripture: Matthew 4 (NIV)

17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

18 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.
19 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."
20 At once they left their nets and followed him.

21 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,
22 and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

1st Reading: What is one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses on you? Meditate on that.

2nd Reading: Enter into the Scripture passage. How do you feel about stepping away from your way of doing your work to learn Jesus' way of living and working? Write down a prayer or pray quietly.

3rd Reading: What is God's personal invitation for you from the Scripture? How does this relate to your life, work, or ministry? You can write down what God may be saying to you or a prayer of thanks. Or rest quietly in God.