

**FOLLOW THE LEADER**  
**Matthew 4:12-23**

**I. HOW DID YOU GET HERE?**

- A. *As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea... And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." ( 4:18-19)*
- B. I Didn't See That Coming.
1. Moses was hiding out in Midian.
    - \* He had no theological or oratorical gifts or training.
    - \* He was scared to death of Pharaoh.
  2. Samuel was asleep.
    - \* He was only a boy. What could he do?
  3. Isaiah really didn't want to go to church that Sunday.
    - \* He had sinned too much. He was lost.
  4. Paul was on a journey.
    - \* He was a religious man on a righteous mission.
- C. Minding Their Own Business.
1. Peter, Andrew, James and John responded to a special invitation.
    - \* They were not "searching for something."
    - \* They were not on a journey toward greater fulfillment in life.
  2. How about you?
    - \* For some it is a dramatic and life-changing event.
    - \* For others it is a lifetime of quiet leading and coaxing.

**II. WHERE ARE YOU GOING?**

- A. *Immediately they left their nets and followed him. (Matthew 4:20)*
- B. What It Means to Be a Christian.
1. A Christian is a "disciple" or "follower."
  2. How many of you have ever been to a conference on leadership?  
How many of you have ever been to a conference on "followership?"
- C. Where Are They Now?
1. There is a dangerous game we play when we get older.
  2. We get out our class yearbook, look at the pictures of the classmates we knew best, and recall days gone by.
- D. Following the Wrong Leader.
1. The danger is that we will listen to the wrong voice.
  2. We must be careful with our lives, because this is a puzzling and perilous world and we are very precious and what we do matters.
- E. Don't Miss the Moment.
1. Congregations are graying rapidly, without much greening.
  2. In a world where there is so much drudgery, so much grief, so much emptiness and fear and pain, we might just hear a voice saying, "Whom shall I send?" and if you're not careful, you may find yourself saying, "Send me!"

**Prayer Concerns: Members** – *Jamin Barker, Burney Biesel, Marie Davis, Edie Ford, Jack Hatcher, Ruth Dale Hurt, James Lee, Gwen Steward, Carol Webb ...* **Friends** – *Tommy Anderson, Frankie Borden, Lawrence Carolin, Emily Davis, Reggie Deloach, Ricky Dennison, Molly Kate Duncan, Scott Flowers, Nancy Godsey, Jean Hansford, Shawn Harmon, Dolores Hearn, Jeff Joyner, Dewaine Moncier, Jr., Sheena Moore, Jimmy Patterson, Dylan Tucker, Allen Voss, Todd Warren, Don Webb, Rudy Welch ...*

### PATORAL PRAYER

Lord Jesus, it's hard for us to believe. They left everything they had and followed you. They left their livelihood, their family, friends, and neighbors to go on a journey that would take them places they never imagined. Why would they do it? Why would they trust you with their lives?

Lord, we know that we are all on a journey that will take us places we can't really imagine. Oh, we say we know what lies ahead, but in the deep places of our heart, when we're really honest, we know that we are facing an uncertain future. The question we face is the same question Peter, Andrew, James and John faced. Who will we follow? Whose words will guide our lives? Whose influence will determine the direction we take and the decisions we make? So much rides on our answer to that question.

We pray that we will hear your voice above all other voices. We pray that we will follow where you lead and put our lives in your hands knowing that no matter what happens you will be with us.

Hear us now as we pray the prayer you taught us to pray ...

**THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### MATTHEW 4:12-23

Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“The land of Zabulun and the land of Naphtali,  
toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles --  
the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light.  
And for those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

### SERMON SCHEDULE

February 3	<i>When Everything Changes</i> Holy Communion	Matthew 17:1-9
February 6	<i>Ash Wednesday Service</i>	6:30 p.m.
February 10	<i>That's Tempting</i> First Sunday in Lent	Matthew 4:1-11
February 17	<i>Born Again: What Does That Mean?</i>	John 3:1-17
February 24	<i>The Importance of Being Important</i>	John 4:5-42