



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Invitations

Matthew 9:9; Mark 10:17-22

1. This week we continued our sermon series on following Jesus by focusing on two specific invitations that Jesus gave to two different young men. Take a moment to read the story of the first invitation.

Mark 10:17-22 - 17 As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 18 “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. 19 You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.’ [a]” 20 “Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.” 21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” 22 At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

What stands out to you from this story?

This young man approached Jesus reverently with an important question. What was the question, and how would you answer that question if someone asked you?

Why didn’t the young man accept Jesus’ invitation to follow Him? Does this relate to your life in any way?

2. Take some time to read about the second invitation.

Matthew 9:9 As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector’s booth. “Follow me,” he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

What stands out to you from this story?

Why do you think Matthew did accept Jesus’ invitation to follow Him? Does this relate to your life in any way?

3. Have you accepted Jesus' invitation to follow Him? What does it mean to you right now, in your current season of life, to follow Jesus?

Following Jesus is an invitation to be active, instead of passive, in your faith. What do you think is the difference between active and passive faith?

Paul calls us to be active even in our prayers.

Colossians 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

What do you think it means to be watchful in prayer?

4. Think back to the two invitations Jesus gave to two young men to follow Him. Not only did Jesus invite these young men to follow Him, He also asked them to give up something.

In Luke's version of the story about Matthew, it clearly describes the invitation. Luke calls Matthew by his Hebrew name, Levi.

Luke 5:27-32 27 After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, 28 and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.

Matthew left everything to follow Jesus. The Rich young man in Mark was also asked to give up everything: **21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."**

The benefit of following Jesus is life-changing, but the cost of following Jesus is staggering. David Platt sees it like this: "My prayer is that people will see that following Jesus costs you everything you are and everything you have. And my prayer is that people will see that following Jesus is more than worth it."

What are your thoughts on this?

Do you agree that following Jesus costs you everything? What did you give up to follow Jesus? What would you give up to follow Jesus?