

Christ's Call and the Making of a Man

Intro

Mk 3:13-19

Jesus calls men to be with Him.

- To be his disciple was, first and foremost, to be where He was.
- Our fast-paced, involved-in-everything lifestyle keeps us from being bored, but prevents us from experiencing any kind of depth/consistency in our Christian walk.

Jesus makes men by bringing them into fellowship with Himself. We answer the call by listening to, learning from, and enjoying Him.

Jesus calls men to be acquainted with suffering.

Mk 3:20-6:6

- Note the proximity: chosen to follow -> conflict and trials

▶ Bunyan's big 3

1 Pet 4:12 "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed."

Jn 15:20 "If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you."

Jn 16:33 "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Jesus makes men by bringing them into faith-forging trials and personal hardships.

Jesus calls men beyond their natural resources.

Mk 6:7-13

- THE critical equipment they need as they go is faith.

Jesus makes men by calling them to do what they cannot do.

There is no retirement from this call.

Mk 10:32-39

“As followers of Christ we are called to be before we are called to do and our calling both to be and do is fulfilled only in being called to him. So calling should not only precede career but outlast it too. Vocations never end, even when occupations do. We may retire from our jobs but never from our calling. We may at times be unemployed but no one ever becomes uncalled.”

-Os Guinness, *The Call*, p 230

“But, if a Christian man is to forego his calling, he lays it down with comfort and boldness in the sight of God.”

-John Cotton, quoted in *The Call*, p. 230

Jesus makes men along the path of lifelong, hard-fought perseverance. And He rewards the faithful.