

# A Word on Wednesday from Pastor Tonia

## "Follow Me" 2/8/23

*Jesus saw two other brothers, James and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and He called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. (Mt 4:21-22)*

A man invites a woman to dance. She puts her hand in his, he leads, and she follows. The commander leads the troops into battle, they trust their leader and follow. The quarterback calls out the play, and the players know the drill and follow the call. One trusts the director to lead, then follows their directions and the play goes on. The conductor lifts their baton, and the musicians pick up their instruments and follow their lead.

If the man dances alone people snicker. If the commander has no troops – he's in trouble. If the quarterback has no team mates, he's going to lose the ball. If there are no actors, the director has to turn the script into a one-person play. If the conductor has no musicians - there is silence.

God became one of us and He invites us to follow Him. He calls us, gifts us, and sends us out to do His work. To share His message of salvation, to feed the hungry and care for those in need. He uses our hands to do His work. He leads and we follow.

Just as Jesus came down to the lakeshore to call fishermen, God comes to us where we are, where we live, where we work, where we play, where we cry, where we find joy, and He bids us to follow. Just as Jesus told the fishermen to leave their nets behind and follow Him, changing their catch from fish to people, God calls us to leave our old selves behind and to go now to serve Him in the world He so loves.

Each of the early followers of Christ risked their livelihood, their identity, and placed their future, their purpose in the intangible promises of God. They gave up control and put their faith in this Man who would turn their lives upside down. So, it has been for Christ follows throughout history and so it is for us, today.

God comes to us where we are and invites us to come and see, bids us to follow. Calls us to live as Christ lived. To love as Christ loved. As we gather around the word, the font, and the Lord's table on Sundays, we are forgiven, set free, and our faith is fed. There we are strengthened for the journey. From there we are sent to walk in the light and to share the good news so others may be caught in the net of God's grace and mercy. From there, renewed in faith, the church leaves the building and goes into the world - into the frightening, the difficult, the unknown, putting their hands in God's and trusting Him to lead.

## **Please pray with me:**

Lord of the dance, Thank You for Your call to follow You. Thank You for holding our hands and leading us through all of the quick steps, slow turns, and unexpected twirls of life. May others see the beauty of this dance as they see how closely You hold us and lead us through it all.

**Amen.**