



An Unexpected Invitation

INTRODUCTION

Invitations are powerful. They come in all shapes and sizes from weddings, graduations, and parties. The list goes on and on. It's nice to receive an invitation to any event. Even if you choose not to attend, the sender thought enough of you to ask. Jesus extended the invitation of a lifetime to a few men who left everything to become His followers. This may seem crazy until you realize how special Jesus' invitation was.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the best invitation you've ever received? What made it valuable? How did you respond?
2. Becoming a Rabbi in the first century was the equivalent of getting a Harvard or MIT education today. Those who didn't make the cut took on a trade. Share some of the life goals your parents had for you growing up. Were you able to measure up?
3. How have you unknowingly passed those expectations on to others possibly?
4. Read Mark 10:17–23. Why is it difficult for some to receive Jesus' invitation to follow Him?
5. What does it cost in our current culture to be a follower of Jesus? What might a modern-day disciple have to "drop" socially, politically, or personally?
6. If you are a follower of Jesus, how has it been worth it? If you are not a follower, what is keeping you from receiving Jesus' invitation?

MOVING FORWARD

Jesus has extended an invitation to you to follow him. It is an invitation to stop running and stop trying to measure up. It's an invitation for rest, peace, and hope. All you have to do is accept His invitation to follow. What is the next step you can take to follow Jesus this week?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"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. 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will send you out to fish for people.' At once they left their nets and followed him." **Matthew 4:18-22 (NIV)**