

# **Jesus' Authority to Call Disciples**

*By what authority does Jesus call me to be His disciple?*

\*Just for fun – When the mail comes, what do you open and read first?

## **Jesus Authority Is Based On His Deity** (Mark 1:1)

1. What is meant by “Deity”?

2. The name “Jesus” identified Him as Savior; the title “Christ” presented Him as the Messiah (deliverer and ruler of the Jews). But as “Son of God”, Jesus’ Sonship designated Him as supernatural.

How do the following verses affirm Jesus’ deity?

John 1:18

John 10:31, 37-38

John 5:22, 23

Matthew 26:28

John 10:10

Matthew 28:18

John 10:28-30

3. What is the most compelling evidence to you personally that Jesus is God? Why?

## **Jesus' Authority Is Revealed In His Power To Transform** (Mark 1:2-8)

1. What does the phrase “He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit” mean? Discuss how this relates to Jesus’ ability to transform people. Give examples from the Bible . . . from your own personal experience.

## **Jesus Authority Was Confirmed By God’s Endorsement** (Mark 1:9-11)

1. Identify how these verses make reference to the three persons of the Trinity. Discuss the significance of the Trinity in terms of Jesus’ authority to call disciples.

\*Mark 9:2-7 depicts a similar endorsement

2. Look at two other references of Jesus’ existence prior to Marks’ testimony. How do they confirm His authority?

John 1:1,14

Genesis 1:26; 3:22

## **Jesus Authority Is Demonstrated by His Victory Over Temptation**

(Mark 1:12-13; Hebrews 4:14-16)

1. What does it mean to be tempted?
  
  
  
  
2. Why would the Spirit lead Jesus into a time of temptation?
  
  
  
  
3. Do you think the Holy Spirit leads believers into periods of temptation today? Why or why not?  
(see James 1:13; 1 Thessalonians 3:5)
  
  
  
  
4. What are some promises of God for when we face temptation?  
  
1 Corinthians 10:13                                  Hebrews 2:18; 4:16
  
  
  
  
5. How does Jesus' victory over temptation reinforce His authority to call us His disciples?

**Review/Personal Application:**

- *What did I learn about God or myself?*
  
- *What did I learn that I can use today?*

**Care and Prayer:** How can we help one another through prayer?

**LIFE Groups**

*Providing an environment to nurture caring relationships and spiritual growth.*

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|----------------------------|--|
| <b>L</b> ♦ Learn.....      | ..... applying Biblical truth for everyday living                                |
| <b>I</b> ♦ Invite.....     | .....welcoming others to our fellowship  |
| <b>F</b> ♦ Fellowship..... | .....nurturing Christ centered caring relationships                              |
| <b>E</b> ♦ Evangelism..... | .....combining evangelism, teaching and nurturing to impact our world for Christ |

# The Call for Obedient Response

*How should I respond to Jesus' call to discipleship?*

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Bible Truth: Jesus' authoritative call to discipleship demands prompt response, total commitment to him, and readiness to work with His other disciples.

\*Just for fun - Finish this statement, "A time I took a big chance but it paid off was... "

**Obey Readily** or "Compliance" (Mark 1: 16-20)

1. One of today's prevalent attitudes is for people to "keep their options open." What does this phrase really mean? What are some ways / why do people put this attitude into practice?
  
2. What do you think Jesus meant when He said, "*Come, follow Me*"?
  
3. Although the disciples Jesus called had prior contact with Him, they made an immediate decision to follow Him when He called them. Did you respond to Jesus' call immediately, or did you wait? Why?
  
4. Jesus used the illustration of "fishers of men" when calling fishermen. What illustration might Jesus use if He were calling you from your current profession?

What was the main idea that Jesus had in mind when He said, "I will make you fishers of men"?

**Commit Totally** or "Commitment" (Mark 2: 13-14)

1. What do we know about Levi?
  
2. What differences / similarities do you see in the response of Levi compared to the fishermen? (Consider their costs in committing to follow Christ.)
  
3. Discuss the insecurities/fears people might experience in total commitment to Christ. How do these compare to the security/assurances we have as a devoted follower of Christ.

## **Join Others To Do Jesus' Work** or "Cooperation" (Mark 3: 13-19)

1. What are the two purposes given for Jesus selecting the 12?
2. What does it mean to be "with Him"? To be "sent out" by Him?
3. Do you think the disciples found working with each other easy? Discuss the advantages and for Jesus calling such diverse and ordinary people?
4. How can we team up to do Jesus' work, what does that mean to you?

### **Review/Personal Application**

- Is there an area where you are afraid to totally commit to Jesus that you need to pray about?

**Care and Prayer:** How can we help one another through prayer?

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# **The Call to Difficult Discipleship**

*What can I expect to experience as Jesus' Disciple?*

Bible Truth: Jesus calls people to a demanding way of life that can be lived only in complete dependence on His presence and strength.

\*Just for fun: If you had to move and could only take 3 things with you, what would you take?

### **Jesus Disciples Encounter Conflict** (Mark 2:3-12; 3:2, 6)

1. Why didn't Jesus just heal the man like everyone expected . . . what new insight about himself is he revealing? Why are the teachers so upset? What was at stake? (See Lev. 24:13-16)
2. Even so, how does Jesus respond to them? (see also Mark 3:3-5)
3. Complete this statement: "The most difficult thing that could happen to me as a follower of Christ is..."

And, "Opposition that I have experienced as a Christian was . . . "

### **Jesus' Disciples Experience Joy and Sorrow** (Mark 2:18-20)

1. Jesus used feasting and fasting to illustrate the "joys" and "sorrows" that believers would experience. Why do you think He used these examples . . . how do they relate to joy and sorrow? How might they apply to us today?
2. How can believers prepare for times of hardship, sorrow, or difficulty (e.g. loss of job, sickness, ridicule, etc.)? Can one prepare for this? (see Romans 12:17-21)
3. How does God use painful events to teach us and grow us into more mature disciples? Can you share an example from personal experience?

### **Jesus' Disciples Need To Draw Strength From His Presence** (Mark 6:42-44; 8:8-10; 8:14-21)

1. What is Jesus' point in highlighting the baskets of food that remained after feeding the 5000 and the 4000? What should the disciples understand about Him from those experiences?

2. How are the disciples like and unlike the Pharisees? (vv. 11-12)

3. What does Matthew 11:28-30 mean to you personally?

**Review/Personal Application:**

- *What truth can you put into practice this week?*

**Care and Prayer:** How can we help one another through prayer?

- If you had friends who would take you to Jesus for healing today, what kind of healing would you ask for? (Physical, spiritual, emotional, relational)
- Is there a need you are having difficulty believing Jesus can meet?

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# The Call to Service

*How can I serve Jesus?*

Bible Truth: Jesus' call to discipleship is a call to serve Him through serving people in His name.

\*Just for fun: Share about a vacation experience that turned into something ‘challenging’ you never expected!

### **Tell Others About Jesus** (Mark 5:1-20)

1. Why do you think the people reacted as they did? How do you think you would have reacted?
2. Why would Jesus not want the healed man to go with Him?
3. In what way is proclaiming Jesus a privilege? In what way is it a responsibility?
4. To the family members or friends (or anyone that doesn’t know Jesus) who you have not told how Jesus has shown mercy on you, what would you like to tell them?

### **Fulfill Your Mission** (Mark 6:6b-12)

1. Discuss what can we learn from the disciples evangelistic mission. What lessons can we learn that apply to reaching Toledo and our world with the gospel?
2. Was their purpose different from the mission Jesus has given to believers today? How was it different? How was it similar?
3. How should we respond to those who reject the gospel?

### **Engage in Compassionate Ministry** (Mark 6:13-34; 8:2)

1. Why are compassionate ministries often effective in reaching people for Christ?
2. What ministries of compassion do we have at Westgate Chapel? What are some possible ministries you would like to see initiated that would demonstrate compassion in our culture today?

### **Take Time for Periodic Renewal** (Mark 6:30-31)

1. What was the first thing the disciples did when they returned and why was (and is) that so important?

2. How do you know when your “burning the candle at both ends”?
  
3. List reasons Christians should set aside time for spiritual renewal that begin with the letter:
  - ◆ *R* - [e.g., rest, retool, ... ]
  - ◆ *E* -
  - ◆ *N* -
  - ◆ *E* -
  - ◆ *W* -
  - ◆ *A* -
  - ◆ *L* -

**Review/Personal Application:**

➤ *From this lesson, in what area is God nudging you to grow in your walk with Him?*

**Care and Prayer:** How can we help one another through prayer?

- What family members or friends still need to hear what Jesus has done for you? (What steps can be taken to do this?)
- In what areas do you need help or prayer to be more effective in sharing your faith?

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