

**Practicing the Way**  
**Accepting Christ's Offer to Become an Apprentice**

Matthew 9:9 As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man called Matthew, sitting in the tax collector's booth; and He said to him, "Follow Me!" And he got up and followed Him.

Matthew 4:18-22 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. <sup>19</sup> "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." <sup>20</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup> Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, <sup>22</sup> and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

**1. Come – A Proposition**

- **It's both a command to be followed and an invitation to be considered.**  
Romans 10:13 "Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved."
- **It leads to a decision that changes everything.**  
2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
- **It calls for full commitment.**  
You don't partially come to Jesus.

John 10:9 I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

James 2:19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

**2. Follow – A Position**

- It's literally translated "come after me." Or "behind me."
- "Come follow..."
- You'll find three ideas insinuated by this position.
- **Proximity – Be with Jesus**
  - Following Jesus is a proximity issue. You've got to follow Him up close.  
Hebrews 12:2 Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
  - The Hebrews writer didn't say keep your eyes on the trail markers but on the Trail Marker.
- **Passion – Become Like Him.**

- “Intense, driving, overmastering feeling; a strong liking or desire for or devotion to some activity.”

Matthew 6:33 “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

- **Practice – Do as He did.**

- Jesus didn’t just mean walk behind Him, but He meant do as He did.

- One word for disciple means imitator.

1 Timothy 4:7-8 Do not waste time arguing over godless ideas and old wives’ tales.

Instead, train yourself to be godly. <sup>8</sup>“Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come.”

### 3. **Me – A Person**

Being an apprentice of Jesus is all about having a relationship with Him.

- **Practicing the Way is not about developing a set of rituals.**

- Rituals alone can lead to empty religion.

- Mark 7:6 “And he said to them, “Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me.’”

- **Practicing the Way is not about saying and doing the right things.**

- Focusing on activity can lead to a works-oriented pursuit.

- Matthew 7:22-23 Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ 23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’”

- **Practicing the Way is about deepening your relationship with Jesus.**

Matthew 22:37 And He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the great and foremost commandment.”

### **Prayer:**

Jesus, I’ve heard your call to apprenticeship, and I want to follow you. I surrender to your authority as my God and your position as my Lord. But more than anything, I want to know you, to love you, and to be like you. I’m opening myself up to you to do something very special in my heart throughout this series. I’ll do my part, and I’m confident you will do your part to transform me as well. Amen