

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

"Follow Me"

By Pastor Jerry Cummings, Living Hope Fellowship, Norton

In Matt. 4:19 Jesus said to His disciples, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Here Jesus is speaking to those who eventually would become the twelve apostles. They would be used of God to establish the Christian church, write New Testament scriptures, and spread the gospel around the world of that day.

But where did Jesus find men who could accomplish such great things? The answer is that He did not find them, but He made them as they followed Him. As Jesus told them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." He was able to make them, because they followed. They went with Him where He went. They interacted with Him along the way. They followed His instructions. And He made them into who they became, so they were able to do what they did.

The disciples had problems with self-centeredness. They argued about which of them was the greatest. Two of them sought Jesus to allow them to have the seats on Jesus' right and left when He came into His kingdom. This revealed issues in their hearts, but Jesus

taught them about greatness in serving. They were changed as they followed.

They were full of faith one moment, and then were rebuked for unbelief or little faith the next moment. But as they followed they became men of great faith. Sometimes they got it right as when Peter confessed that Jesus was the Christ the

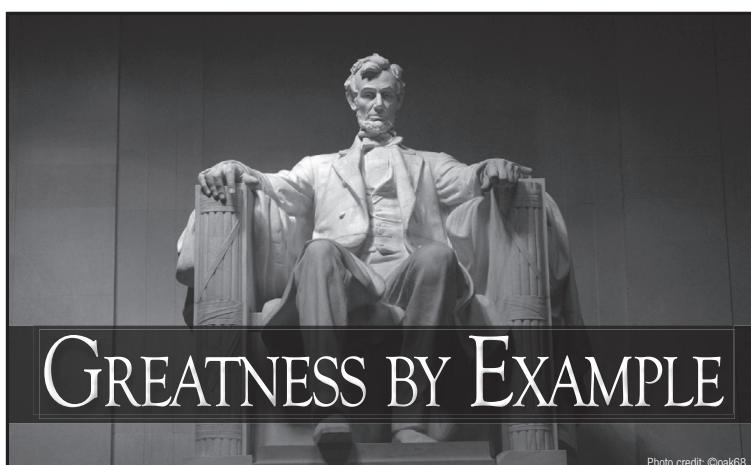
Son of God. At that moment He was commended. But shortly after that Jesus had to rebuke Peter with the words "Get behind me Satan." In spite of these ups and downs, they followed, and Jesus continued to change them and make them to be His fishers of men.

Right up until the time when Jesus ascended into

Heaven, the disciples were mistaken about God's plan for the messiah. They thought He would bring about an earthly kingdom and restore the freedom and prominence of Israel. But they followed, and their false ideas were replaced with truth. They became the ones through whom the Good News of God's kingdom went around the world.

These men did not have it together. They did not understand everything correctly. But they did follow Jesus as He had told them to, and as He promised, they became great at fishing for men.

This is a great lesson for us today. The key for our lives is not in our great understanding, or ability, or correctness, but in our following. If we follow Jesus through His word and His Spirit, and stay with it, He will make us into the person He calls us to be. The Bible teaches that God is in us working to help us to desire and to do His will. We need not worry about our abilities or our knowledge, as long as we continue to follow Him. As one has said, "He who walks with God, will always reach his destination."



GREATNESS BY EXAMPLE

On Presidents' Day we celebrate the memory of past leaders, each one an example of greatness. One was Abraham Lincoln, a man of character and perseverance. He won the presidency after being defeated for public office eleven times. He came from humble beginnings and took nothing for granted, having empathy for the poor and oppressed and believing that everyone should be treated equally, "with malice toward none and charity for all". Most importantly, Abraham Lincoln was a man of God. Of the Bible, he said, "Read this book for what on reason you can accept, and take the rest on faith..." Follow a great example and worship God this week.

Weekly Scripture Reading
 1 Corinth. 1 Corinth. 2 Corinth. 2 Corinth. 2 Corinth. Romans
 12.12-31 13.1-13 8.1-24 9.1-15 12.1-21 13.1-13 12.1-21

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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