

# BEYOND SUNDAY

9.22.24

**G: GATHER with God and Worship Him Together** — Mark Turney— Matthew 4:18

1. What was the most meaningful invitation you've ever received and how did it impact you? How does this compare to the invitation Jesus gives us to follow Him?
2. Reflect on the story of the disciples in Matthew 4:18-22. What do you think motivated them to leave everything and follow Jesus immediately? How would you have responded in their place?
3. Mark mentioned that the disciples were not considered the "best of the best" in society's eyes. How does this change your perspective on who Jesus calls to follow Him? What does this mean for us today?
4. Why do you think Jesus chose ordinary people to be His disciples and use them to change the world? How does this encourage you in your own faith journey?
5. The analogy of "Simon Says" versus "Jesus Says" was used to highlight how we often treat Jesus' commands. Do you find yourself learning more about Jesus' words more than actually doing them? What steps can you take to change this?

6. The sermon described how modern Christians often separate belief from behavior. In what areas of your life do you find it challenging to live out your faith consistently?
  
7. The concept of a "truncated Gospel" was discussed, focusing only on the afterlife. How can an emphasis on "getting in to heaven when we die" distort our understanding of following Jesus in the present?
  
8. What does it mean to "gather with Jesus" daily? What practical steps can you take to make this a regular part of your life, and how do you think it would impact your spiritual growth?
  
9. What are some misconceptions you have had about grace and effort in your faith journey? How can you balance receiving God's grace while still putting in the effort to grow spiritually?
  
10. Jim Putnam's quote about "divorcing the message of Jesus from the methods of Jesus" challenges us to rethink our approach to discipleship. What changes do you feel you need to make to align your life more closely with Jesus' teachings and methods?

If you're meeting before the second sermon on "Gather," include this question in preparation for Sunday's message:

- What role does gathering weekly for worship play in your efforts to follow Jesus? Why is gathering together with our church family for worship likewise essential to our discipleship?