



THE ROYAL COMPLEX - The King's Call - Matthew 4:18-22 - January 16-22

Main Idea: The King's call is for everyone

Look Back (Remind yourselves of the challenge from last week)

Last week you were challenged to have one touch point with those who will carry the call of Christ after you. Were you able to complete that challenge? What did it look like?

Look Up (Wrestle with the passage itself)

Read Matthew 4:18-22 together.

This section in the life of Jesus, though short, represents everything about the King's hope for the Kingdom. It's interesting to note that in this monumental idea of God coming down to earth and living among his creation, that his entire ministry would only last for three years.

Three years. That's it.

The God of all creation had one chance to live with his creation, to be limited by flesh and bone, to speak words that people can directly hear and begin a new covenant by which all people can be saved - and yet he only needed three years to get the job done. Why? Because he knew it wasn't just him. It wasn't just his words. It wasn't just his efforts. He would get the ball rolling, but it would be through his disciples, his students, and his followers that the Kingdom would come.

And here, in these few verses, that all begins.

Discussion Question: Have you ever stopped to consider how short Jesus' ministry actually was? Does that seem strange to you? Why or why not? What are the implications for us?

Jesus' call to these men - Simon, Andrew, James, and John - was simple. Follow me, let me transform you, and then join me in saving the world. He took the occupation that these men knew and turned it inside out. He took their view of the world and gave it a greater perspective. He called them to something more, and the same is true for you and me.

Discussion Question: Spend some significant time sharing your stories together. What has it meant to be called by Jesus? How has he transformed you? Where is he inviting you to join him in his mission?

Look Forward (Challenge to do something with it)

Challenge: When you look at these three pieces that Jesus calls us to - to follow, to be changed, to be on mission - where do you see strengths and weaknesses in your own life? Choose one area, and then come up with one concrete way you can make an improvement this week. It could be memorizing Scripture, choosing a time each morning for prayer, or sharing your hope with a coworker. Be specific. And if needed, talk with someone in the group that could help you think this through.

Prayer challenge: Pray that God would reveal a deeper place for his calling on us.