



## I am a Disciple - Part III

### INTRODUCTION

Our world today is filled with many problems. Some of them are global in scale and are becoming increasingly more complex; others revolve around our relationships with other people. A popular response to any problem would be to acquire the necessary skill to solve it, but do these solutions actually address the root of the problem?

As we continue to reflect on Matthew 4:18-22, we realise that Simon and Andrew did not belong to the elite of society. Being fishermen, they certainly did not have the skills for the ministry ahead of them, but that did not prevent them from being obedient to the transformative work of Christ.

In looking after our roots, we need to remember that the heart of discipleship is to be changed by Christ. No doubt we will, in the course of being a disciple, acquire certain skills, but that is not the same as maturity, or growth, for Christ's words in Matthew 4:19, '**I will make you...**' refers to a Christ-centred, transformation that is unique to every believer.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is change important for us? Reflect on those moments where you felt a part of your life had to change significantly. Did you intentionally seek God about it, or did you attempt to work things out through your own effort?
2. Why do our relationships with family, friends, and colleagues *matter* to our faith, and even the change needed for us to grow in Christ?
3. Read James 1:2-4 (ESV)

*<sup>2</sup> Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, <sup>3</sup> for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. <sup>4</sup> And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

Do an inductive bible study (observations, interpretation and application). You can use the following as a guide.

- i. Posture your heart. Spend some time in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to be your teacher. Open your heart to the Lord to speak to you.
- ii. Read the passage aloud
- iii. Ask some context questions of the passage:
  - What sort of writing is this? (a letter, a poem, a narrative etc?)
  - Are there any clues about the circumstances under which it was written?
  - What has happened so far in this particular book of the Bible?
- iv. Some observation questions of the passage:
  - Are there any major sub-sections or breaks in the passage?
  - What is the main point or points?
  - What surprises are there?
  - What are the key words? What words or ideas are repeated?
- v. Some leading questions of the text:
  - How does this passage relate to other parts of the book?
  - How does the passage relate to Jesus?
  - What does this teach us about God?
  - How could we sum up the meaning of this passage in our own words?
- vi. Some application questions of the passage:
  - How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding?
  - Is there some attitude I need to change?
  - How does this passage call on me to change the way I live?

## **WHAT WOULD YOU DO?**

Spiritual growth is not the same as mastering a skill, but a journey for the disciple to be changed by Christ. Rather than add or consume more things, we are called to lead more fruitful lives that would impact our family, friends and communities. This is a transformation that begins with us and continues through our interactions with those around us. Perhaps, only then, will we be able to catch a glimpse of God's vision, and change, for His creation.

*Would you allow Christ to change you?*

## **CHANGE YOUR MINDSET**

Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)

<sup>22</sup> *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,* <sup>23</sup> *gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*