

Sermon

In the Dust of Our Rabbi

Pastor Ben Banner

Matthew 4:19-20; Matthew 14:28

Main Idea:

Jesus doesn't just ask us to believe in Him — He invites us to follow Him. Discipleship means walking closely with Him, imitating His way, and becoming covered in the "dust" of our Rabbi.

1. The Preposterous Invitation

Jesus calls ordinary people — fishermen, tax collectors, outsiders — to follow Him. Unlike other rabbis, Jesus shows His belief in us before we believe in Him.

Read

Matthew 4:19-20 — "Come, follow me... at once they left their nets and followed him."

Quote: "Before Peter ever believed in Jesus, Jesus showed that He believed in Peter."

Reflect

Meditate on the fact that Jesus chose ordinary people to carry out His mission.

Pray: "Lord, thank You that You call me, not because of my greatness, but because of Your grace."

Respond

- How does it change your view of yourself to know Jesus believes in you?
- What is one "net" you may need to leave behind in order to follow Him more closely?

2. The Purpose of Discipleship

Following a rabbi meant living so close that you would be covered in his dust — watching, listening, imitating. Discipleship is not just learning about Jesus but becoming like Jesus.

Read

Matthew 14:28-29 — "Lord, if it's you... tell me to come to you on the water."

Quote: "The goal is to become more and more like Jesus, even in impossible moments."

Reflect

Meditate on what it means to "walk in the steps of Jesus."

Pray: "Lord, make me bold enough to step out of the boat and walk where You lead."

Respond

- Where is Jesus asking you to step out in faith this week?
- How can you practically imitate something Jesus did — in your words, actions, or priorities?

3. The Challenge for Us Today

Discipleship is not about fitting Jesus into our lives when convenient. It is about surrender — carrying our cross daily and living in step with our Rabbi.

Read

Luke 9:23 — "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."

Quote: "True discipleship is costly, but it is also the path to true life."

Reflect

Meditate on what "daily" means in this verse — not once, but every single day.

Pray: "Lord, give me courage to follow You fully, even when it's costly."

Respond

- Where are you tempted to follow Jesus only when it's convenient?
- What one step can you take this week to draw closer, so that you are covered in the dust of your Rabbi?

For the Week Ahead

Read: Matthew 4:18–22; Matthew 14:22–33; Luke 9:23–25.

Pray: Ask Jesus to help you follow closely enough to be “covered in His dust.”

Act: Choose one practice this week (time, relationship, habit) to realign with Jesus’ way.