

# Come, Follow Me

Red Letter Followers - Part 1

March 17, 2019

**Mark 1:16-20** – “As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” <sup>18</sup>At once they left their nets and followed him.

<sup>19</sup>When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. <sup>20</sup>Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.”

To fully understand and appreciate what is going on in this story, we've got to become better acquainted with the world of Jesus.

## Bet Sefer - House of the Book

- ◆ Synagogue school for boys and girls around ages 6-10.
- ◆ The **TORAH** served as the singular text book from which they studied.
- ◆ The annual first day of school always fell on the Jewish holiday of **SHAVOUT** - Commemorating the anniversary of Moses' delivering of the Law to the nation of Israel (ref. Exodus 19).
- ◆ The entirety of the Torah was committed to memory by each student.

## Bet Talmud - House of Learning

- ◆ Synagogue school for boys and girls around ages 10-14.
- ◆ The entirety of the **Old Testament** (Genesis - Malachi) was committed to memory by each student.
- ◆ The Jewish art of *Questions & Answers* was perfected.

**Luke 2:46** - “After three days they found him (Jesus) in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers.”

## Bet Midrash

- ◆ Reserved for Jewish males around the age of 13-14.
- ◆ Today's equivalent of an apprenticeship with a leading and respected rabbi - One with “authority.”
- ◆ After passing a rabbi's thorough entrance interview he would say to the candidate: “*Come, follow me.*”
- ◆ If one failed the rabbi's entrance exam, he would look to the candidate and say: “*Go and ply your trade.*”

**Mark 1:17-18** - “‘Come, follow me,’ Jesus said, ‘and I will send you out to fish for people.’ <sup>18</sup>At once they left their nets and followed him.”

**Mark 1:19-20** - “When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. <sup>20</sup>Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

## Application:

**Matthew 28:19** – “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

- ◆ Jesus is the only known rabbi to **go looking** for followers.
- ◆ He does not reserve His search only for the best of the best, rather he finds us right where we are and places great faith in each of us to become like Him.