

## The Invitation to Follow

Scripture: Mark 1:15-20

By Brother Benjamin Yu

- Introduction
  - Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!
  - First Amendment: *"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."*
  - Kennedy v. Bremerton Seattle School District
  - Independence Day jokes:
    - Who has to work on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July? \_\_\_\_\_
    - What did the Colonists wear at the Boston Tea Party? \_\_\_\_\_
    - What beverage do you drink on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July? \_\_\_\_\_
    - What did King George think of the US Colonists? \_\_\_\_\_
    - Why are there no knock knock jokes on Independence Day? \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Come Follow Me
  - Mark 1:15, *"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"*16 *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. 17 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." 18 At once they left their nets and followed him. 19 When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. 20 Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him."*
  - Martial Arts
  - John 10:27, *"My sheep **listen to my voice**; I know them, and they **follow me**."*
  - Hebrews 12:2, *"Let us **fix our eyes** on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."*
  - PRAYER – Ephesians 3:16-19
    - Mark 11:17, *"My house will be called a house of **prayer** for all nations."*
    - Colossians 4:2, *"Devote yourselves to **prayer**, being watchful and thankful"*

- Acts 2:42, *"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to **prayer**."*
- I Will Make You
  - Romans 12:1, *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be **transformed** by the **renewing of your mind**. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will."*
  - Ephesians 3:17
  - Sacrificial Love
  - Maximilian Kolbe, Auschwitz, Poland – February 1941
    - Frandischek Gasoynachek
    - In memory of Maximilian Kolbe – He died in my place.
  - John 15:13, *"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."*
- Fishers of Men
  - Committed to bring people to Christ
  - Matthew 28:19-20, *"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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded."*
  - Come follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.
  - I Have Decided to Follow Jesus
    - Nokseng – from Gano in Northern India in 1841
- Communion
  - John 6:53, *"I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood remain in me and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever who feeds on this bread will live forever."*