



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: **Come, Follow Me**

Speaker: **Shauna Rushing - Pastor of Small Groups & Communities**

Scriptures: **Mark 3:13-19**

Jesus Appoints the Twelve

13 Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. 14 He appointed twelve[a] that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach 15 and to have authority to drive out demons. 16 These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter), 17 James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means “sons of thunder”), 18 Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot 19 and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Sermon Summary:

As we return this Sunday to our Gospel of Mark series, we hear again Jesus' call to his disciples. Jesus became like us so that we might become like him. In Mark 3, Jesus calls his followers first to be with him and then to be sent out in his authority. As we prepare to begin a new year, hear Christ's call to every follower: come, dwell in his presence, and go in the power he provides.

Sermon Questions:

1. What is something that gets you to immediately move to respond? (Maybe a favorite food, sports team, song, electronic or video game, or person in your life?)

The book of Mark uses the Greek word immediately over 40 times showing the urgency and excitement he wanted to express in response to Jesus' coming and presence on earth.

2. Reflecting honestly, what has more influence on you than it should in your life right now? (social media, news, work culture, peers, family of origin)

We are all being formed and shaped by who and what we follow everyday. The important question is what is our primary form of discipleship and what is it forming us into? Jesus is inviting us to “Come follow” and let him be the primary influence that transforms our life. Like an ancient rabbi called his students, Jesus is calling us.

“To follow a rabbi meant something other than sitting in a classroom and absorbing his lectures. Rather, it involved a literal kind of following, in which disciples often traveled with, lived with, and imitated their rabbis, learning not only from what they said but from what they did- from their reactions to everyday life as well as from the manner in which they lived. The task of the disciple was to become as much like the rabbi as possible.” - Anne Spangler & Lois Tverberg

3. Read Matthew 11:28-30. What do you notice in Jesus' invitation to come to him?

- Taking someone's yoke upon you was a Hebrew idiom for adopting their teaching, lifestyle and interpretation of Scripture. Jesus is inviting us to take on his teaching and his way of living that leads to life and restoration of our souls.

4. Jesus called the twelve in order to be with them in community and send them out. What do you sense Jesus is specifically calling you to do as we prepare to start 2026? Who is he sending you to share his love with?