

Practicing Jesus: Come, Follow Me (Following)
John 1:35-51, Matthew 4:18-22/ September 15, 2024
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A sucker for buried treasure *Matthew 13:44 NIV*

The invitation in the 1st Century Jewish World *Matthew 4:18-22 NIV*

- **The Jewish Educational System**

- Bet Sefer ("House of the Book")
- Bet Talmud ("House of Learning")
- Bet Midrash ("House of Study")

- **Major Observations:**

- Jesus' invitation is for anyone and everyone
- Jesus' invitation is an exceptional offer and declaration *Matthew 11:28-30 NIV*
- Jesus' invitation includes enjoyable effort and practice

The invitation in the 21st Century Western World

- **Four Observations About "Following Jesus"**

- The invitation to "follow Jesus" has become watered down in a culture where we are invited to "follow" people and organizations all the time
- The invitation to "follow Jesus" has become more about information (what one believes) than transformation (who one becomes/what he or she practices)
- The invitation to "follow Jesus" has become more about going to heaven someday than living the ways of heaven on earth today
- The invitation to "follow Jesus" has become too enmeshed with national political zeal

THE GOOD NEWS

"Come and See" before "Follow Me" *John 1:35-42 NIV*