The Rescue Begins: "Being a Follower of Jesus Christ"

Matthew 4:17-22, 9:9-13

Disciple-making is intentionally investing in others to see them love God, love others and make disciples.

I. Jesus calls us to repent and believe in Him. (Matthew 4:17)

Isaiah 45:22 - "<u>Turn to me and be saved</u>, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other.

Matthew 3:8 - "Bear fruit in keeping with repentance."

Matthew 21:32 - "... the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

Mark 1:15 - "Jesus was saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the <u>kingdom of God</u> is at <u>hand</u>; <u>repent and believe</u> in the <u>gospel</u>.""

Acts 11:18 - "When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, 'Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.""

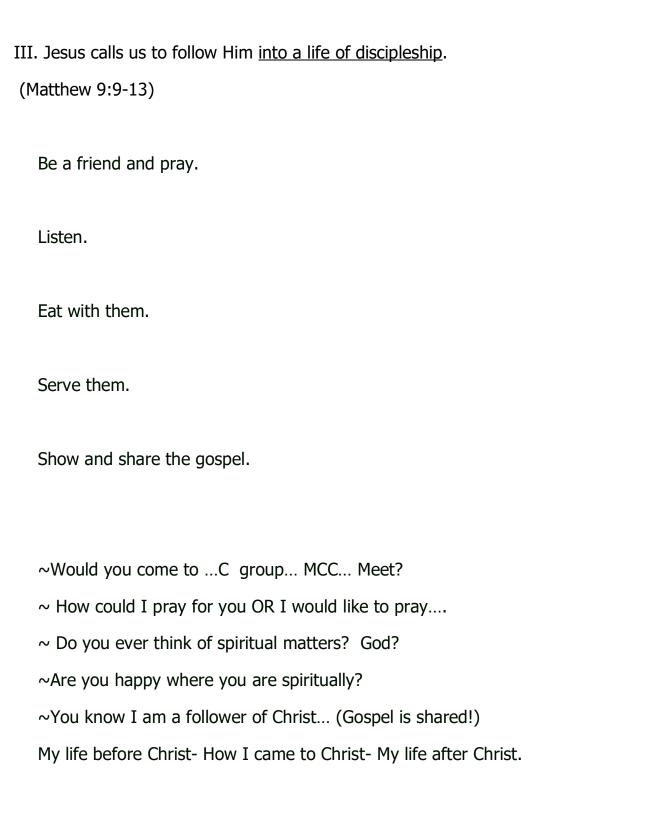
Romans 7:24-25 - "Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!"

Repentance is a turning of the affections of my heart and the direction *of* my life so that I love God and love what He loves.

II. Jesus calls us to <u>surrender all and follow Him</u>. (Matthew 4:18-22)

John 20:21 - "Jesus said to them again, '<u>Peace</u> be with you. <u>As the Father has sent me</u>, even so <u>I am sending you</u>."

.



Romans 1:16 – "For I am <u>not ashamed</u> of the <u>gospel</u>, for it is the <u>power of God for salvation</u> to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

Faith Sheet for Friends and Family this Week

- 1. Where did your life change the most after you became a follower of Jesus? How did others respond to this change?
- 2. Explain repentance and how do we distinguish between repentance and worldly regret or sorrow?
- 3. Word of the week: *Follow* "To walk behind or with someone." How are you intentionally helping others follow Christ?
- 4. Why were the Pharisees so concerned about being contaminated by sinful people instead of being confident of God's power to cleanse?
- 5. How can we specifically follow Matthew's ministry to lost friends with our own hospitality and outreach to others?
- 6. Review the acronym BLESS from Sunday, discuss how to live this kind of life, and pray for one another to live a missional life.