



Going Deeper into

Matthew 4:12-20 – “Turn & Follow”

David pointed out that Matt. 4:17 contains the first command of Jesus recorded in scripture: repent.

Write down some of the things that come to mind when you hear the word “command?”

How does your attitude toward a command change based on whether it is coming from God as opposed to coming from another person?

Read Psalm 111:10, 119:9, 119:98, and Proverbs 30:5. What are some possible benefits of obeying the Lord’s commands?

Pray: Heavenly Father, teach me to recognize and obey Jesus’ teaching and commandments.

The sermon explained that to repent is to have a change of mind or to think differently about your ways. This will inevitably change your actions.

Read the following passages where God has called people to repent: Ezekiel 18:29-32, Zechariah 1:3-4, Mark 1:14-15, and Acts 17:29-31. Consider a time where you repented from a sin or way of thinking that was not godly. What led you to a place of understanding, and then conviction, to repent?

How have your thoughts about that sin or way of thinking changed since you repented?

Pray: Dear God, thank you for convicting me and leading me to repentance through your Holy Spirit. Continue to renew my mind and give me the ability to turn from my ways of thinking and acting as I focus on what Jesus thinks and what Jesus would do in a situation.

In the second half of our passage this Sunday, we saw that the next logical step after repentance is to start following Jesus.

Read Matt 4:18-20, 21-22, and 9:9. How did each of these men respond when Jesus gave them the command to follow him?

David explained that Christians should live a life of daily repentance and following Jesus. List below what thoughts, attitudes, or actions you feel you need to think differently about today?

Using a concordance or Bible website (or app) with search capability (i.e. BibleGateway.com or BlueletterBible.com), find passages in the Bible that pertain to one of the subjects above. Select a few verses to meditate on and pray through as you seek to think differently about that subject.

Pray: Heavenly Father, help me to meditate on your word and to fill my thoughts with Scripture. Guide me to focus my attention on Jesus and to seek to follow His ways instead of my own.