

## St Mark's cell notes, January 17th 2010

### Luke 5:27 – 32: Follow the Master

Try reading this passage in The Message Bible and other translations and compare them.

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#### ***Some starters for pondering and discussion***

1. 'I would go back to the bible with a simple question: how did Jesus teach the men who were following him? I sat down and worked my way through the first nine chapters of Mark's Gospel, noting the aspects of Jesus that appealed to me. Here are some of them:  
Jesus offered his followers a job. He gave them nicknames, and tasks to do. He took them travelling, went home with them, and ate with them. He allowed them to break the Sabbath laws. He made use of their working skills. He told stories about men and workers, about violence, revenge, danger, and justice. He showed them that they were part of something, and displayed his power in the context of their daily lives.  
Jesus made following Him risky and challenging, and sent them out on tough assignments. Afterwards he gave them the chance to debrief. He listened to their stories. And he made himself vulnerable.' (Dave Hopwood, Creative Arts Director, Lee Abbey Conference Centre)
  - In addition to this, what aspects of Jesus appeal to you?
  - Do we need to draw more attention to the aspects of Jesus mentioned in this quotation if we want to 'connect' with our culture today?
  - Is our picture of Jesus 'weak'
2. Why would Levi (Matthew) want to leave everything and follow Jesus?

3. 'Faith dares the soul to go further than you can see' (William Clarke) How might this link to the passage, what does it mean to you?
4. When you hear the phrase, 'follow the master', how do you picture it, are any of these helpful?



Maybe like this? A mother duck and her ducklings – do you see Jesus out in front leading, while you are trusting and following, or maybe hoping not to be left behind,



Or like this? with Jesus alongside you, a friend, guide and companion? –walking and talking – getting to know each other, coping with the ups and downs of the journey together.



God's invitation to all of humankind is to be part of a relationship of love. That is why Jesus came – that is why he calls us to follow him.

What other images would you use to help people understand the phrase?