

Journey Towards the Cross

Topic:

Following Jesus changes everything.

Bible Portion:

Matthew 04:19-20

Focus:

Discipleship: Following Jesus changes everything.



March 25, 2026



A daily devotional for lent season

40-Day Gospel Reading Plan

Bible Readings for Today

John 5-6



Have you Read your Bible today?

Memory Verse for the day

“For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

John 06:40 (ESV)

Quote

“Grace is not opposed to effort; it is opposed to earning.”

- Dallas Willard.

Pope Francis defines Lent as a “season of conversion,” a “time of freedom,” and a

“favourable time to renew faith, hope, and charity.”

He reminds believers that Lent moves us away from self-absorption and turns us back to God and to one another. This understanding beautifully fits our Lenten meditation: Lent is a journey of returning to God's redemptive story. From Creation, God desired fellowship with humanity. Though sin entered the world, God did not withdraw His purpose.

The calling of the first disciples in Matthew 4:19–20 stands within this larger movement of redemption. When Jesus says, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men,” He is not simply inviting helpers; He is restoring humanity to its

original calling—to participate in God's life-giving work. Lent invites us to examine this call deeply.

In the context of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus has just proclaimed, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near” (4:17). The call to follow Him is directly connected to repentance. The Greek word for “follow” (*akolouthēō*) means to walk behind someone as a committed disciple. It implies attachment, obedience, and identification. Jesus does not offer a program but a Person. Discipleship begins with relationship.

The phrase “I will make you” is equally important. Transformation is Christ's work. The fishermen do not make themselves into “fishers of men.” The One who called creation into being now calls and reshapes lives. In Genesis, God formed

humanity from dust; here, in Matthew, the incarnate Son forms disciples for His mission. Redemption is not only forgiveness of sins but re-creation for purpose.

Their response is immediate: “Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.” Nets symbolize livelihood, security, and identity. Leaving them reflects radical trust. Lent confronts us with the same question: What are our “nets”? What defines our security more than Christ? Following Jesus changes everything because it reorders our loyalties.

The image “fishers of men” also carries prophetic depth. In the Old Testament, fishing

imagery sometimes symbolized judgment (Jeremiah 16:16), but here it becomes an image of salvation. Instead of catching for destruction, they gather people into the saving reign of God. Through the Cross, Jesus Himself will be “lifted up” to draw all people to Himself. The Resurrection confirms that this mission is victorious.

Thus, Matthew 4:19–20 reflects the wider journey from Creation to Resurrection. The Creator calls. Humanity responds. The Cross redeems. The risen Lord sends.

For us as a Christian community, Lent is not passive remembrance but active discipleship. We follow Christ through repentance, prayer, fasting, Scripture meditation, and acts of



mercy. We allow Him to “make” us anew. As we journey toward the Cross, we trust that beyond sacrifice lies Resurrection.

Following Jesus is not an addition to life; it is a transformation of life. When we walk behind Him, our identity, purpose, and future are reshaped by His redeeming love.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, call us again to follow You wholeheartedly. Make us instruments of Your redeeming grace, from the Cross to the joy of Resurrection. Amen.

-Rev. Shalu T. Mathew



Prayer Point

Let us pray for Rev. Arpana Rangayya,
Rev. Avinash T. Rangayya,
Rev. B. Samuel Christdoss, Rev. Cletus Edward and
Rev. Christopher E. Karkada,
and for their families and the churches
entrusted to them.

