

## The Disciples

How did the Disciples come about. They were simple men going about their lives. Fishermen, a tax collector, but all became followers of Jesus Christ and all he had to say was “follow me.” They laid down the nets they were working on, set aside what they were doing and followed this man. What of the families who depended on them? What of the job they were doing? None of them said, “Wait while I train someone else to do this task.” “Wait until a better time when I’m not too busy. Wait until the children are grown. Wait until I can get a replacement for my job.” They simply heard a man walking by saying, “Follow me.” Do you ever hear that voice calling to you and do you heed the call? Do you ever sing the words, “I have heard you calling in the night.” I will go Lord; I will hold your people in my hand.” and thought of the nagging voice that sometimes speaks to you? I think every follower of Jesus has heard that voice. I have answered that call many times but the times I regret are the calls I didn’t answer. I always felt called to go on a mission to a foreign country but never did. Oh, I contributed money, I made dresses and donated clothing. I bought Christmas gifts and contributed cakes and I worked midnights for a couple years for MCREST and helped serve dinners yearly, but I never fulfilled my call to go to a foreign country to serve people. I was a Registered Nurse. and I am sure my skills would have been utilized but I will never know that joy of giving that would have come to me and to others I might have helped. Now at 88 I think of the things that I didn’t do. I never learned to swim like Esther Williams, how in the world did she smile underwater? I can’t dance or sing or look like Betty Grable, both of these things were goals as a young child but the thing that most disappoints me is that I never went on a foreign mission. But I hope God will look at the things I did do and not at my failures. I served in the church and sometimes the jobs were small and sometimes they required a lot of effort but always God was with me. We have a forgiving God and that gives me hope that he will forgive me my shortcomings and my failures.

Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go Lord if you lead me, I will hold Your people in my heart. I the Lord of wind and flame I will tend the poor and lame I will set a feast for them my hand will save. Finest bread I will provide ‘til their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord by John Michael Talbot

Lord, may we answer your call when we are called to serve in your name. Be with us Lord, grant us courage in all things, strengthen us in our weakness. We thank you for all we have, for our shelter, for the food on our tables, for those who surround us with love, for our health and well-being, for all the days you give us. Be with those who are ill and those who grieve, comfort them. Be with our church may it truly be your church. Be with our fellowship as we serve each other. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Grace Epperson