

“As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at his tax collector’s booth. “Follow me and be my disciple,” Jesus said to him. So Levi got up and followed him. Later, Levi invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. (There were many people of this kind among Jesus’ followers.)” Mark 2:14-15 NLT

## lectio // Mark 2:13-17

Jesus had his own unique style of “telling the good news.” He just invited them to come and follow him. Interesting that Mark tells us that soon, maybe even the same day or week, that Matthew invited him and the other followers to his home to meet all of his friends.

I don’t know how realistic or practical it would be to just invite Robert (our gardener) or Christine (our neighbor) or Alex (my nephew) to just “follow” me, but I am challenged to think about how that invitation changed the life of those following and it changed the lives of their friends as well. Maybe I can be more bold to just challenge and invite them to follow Jesus and let God take it from there.

What does it look like for me to be more inviting than preachy? Or do challenge someone, who does NOT know Jesus, to follow my life to see God in how I live. What does it look like to Invite people into my home, schedule, thoughts, concerns, prayers, and even fears?

## oratio

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,  
Can you re-teach me how to be better “fishers of men?” I have always lived my life in such a way that people see you working and changing me, but have I challenged or invited them to step in closer - to follow me in terms of how you made those changes in my life. To some have I come across as “judgey” or arrogant, like I am better than them because I don’t do the same things they do? I don’t see Jesus coming across to anyone as “superior” in the sense of putting someone down or demoralizing them - even those Jesus IS superior, people did not feel that he held power, wisdom or morality over them. Well, at least not the common people Jesus loved. All those who felt judged were religious leaders who used their position to keep others away from you, so they had to go through them to get to you. I want to be more inviting than I am, more about seeing YOU in me than just seeing me.

## contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root