

## The Ark Community

# 104: FOLLOW ME!

by Adele **Raise** (EU)

"And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." They immediately left their nets and followed Him. Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him." [Matt 4:18-22]

I was asking myself what caused Peter, Andrew, James and John to follow Jesus, with no hesitation; after all, they didn't know Him yet, they didn't know who He was, and Jesus didn't give them any explanation why they should follow Him. He just said: "**Follow Me!**"

Peter, Andrew, James and John were simply fishermen, common people, who lived a simple and common life. However, with no hesitation, they left their nets to follow a man they didn't even know. Why? Why was it so natural for them? Why was it so natural to follow Jesus? Why did they immediately answer Yes?

I believe Jesus' invite was something they couldn't avoid, an inner impulse, it was their *calling*. Our true nature, our true calling is to follow Jesus, and it doesn't belong just to 'special' people, who have received a religious vocation, like the priests or the monks; it belongs to all of us, to common people.

**Our destiny is to follow Jesus and be His disciple.** And as we answer 'Yes' to His calling, we receive God's grace to persevere in it.

As the Author of the book "*Imitation of Christ*" says, it's simple to start, at the beginning of our calling everything is easier, because we are moved by passion and enthusiasm, but later, our humanity and weaknesses become heavier and heavier and it becomes hard to persevere. But God's grace comes to help us to go on in our calling with new impetus, and helps us to grow more and more as disciples of Christ.

Let's leave our nets! Let's answer 'YES' to Jesus, let's surrender ourselves to His calling. Let's follow Him, and only from then on, will our lives **really** be worth living!

**"Dear Jesus, grant us Your grace, so that your grace will be with us and guide us in our acting, and let it give us strength to persevere till the end".** (*Imitation of Christ*, III,15,3)