

they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. Going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who were also in the boat mending the nets. Immediately He called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went away to follow Him. MARK 1:16-20
Goal: That we might be "established" in the life of obedience.

- C. When we are "committed" believers, Jesus calls us to "be with Him."

And He went up on the mountain and summoned those whom He Himself wanted, and they came to Him. And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out to preach, and to have authority to cast out the demons. MARK 3:13-15
Goal: That our walk with Him would result in active "service" for Him.

- D. When we are "_____ " believers, Jesus calls us to continual discipling by "remaining in Him."

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. JOHN 15:4

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations," MATTHEW 28:18-19a
Goal: That we actively "train" others to be discipling for Christ.

What is the next step in your participation?

1. I'm curious, I need help to believe.
2. I'm convinced, I need help to grow.
3. I'm committed, I need a place to serve.
4. I'm consistent I, need to train others.

Dr. Dennis Eenigenburg
Sermon Notes

December 20, 2009
The Chapel in the Oaks

*Christmas Series:
Gifts Fit for our King*



Message #3

"The Gift of Participation"

ROMANS 12:1-2

MAIN IDEA: THE GIFT OF OUR PERSONAL PARTICIPATION IS A GIFT FIT FOR OUR KING

- I. THE CHRISTMAS STORY IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE GIFTS OF PARTICIPATION

A. _____ gave himself as a gift of participation.
MATTHEW 1:18-25

1. The call to participate was _____.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be

afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” MATTHEW 1:18-21

2. The response to participate was immediate.

And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus. MATTHEW 1:24-25

B. Mary gave herself as a _____ of participation.
LUKE 1:26-38

1. The call to participation was clear.

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end." LUKE 1:26-33

2. The response to participate was _____.

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. And behold, even your relative

Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. LUKE 1:39-38

II. THE CHRISTIAN'S EXHORTATION INCLUDES GIVING _____ AS GIFTS OF PARTICIPATION

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. ROMANS 12:1-2

Note: Jesus' ministry indicates our participation is a progressive process.

A. When we are "_____" seekers, Jesus invites us to "come and see."

Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. And Jesus turned and saw them following, and said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they came and saw where He was staying; and they stayed with Him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.

JOHN 1:35-39

Goal: That we might "believe in Him."

B. When we are "_____" believers, He invites us to "follow him."

As He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for