

# UPCOMING EVENTS

WEEK 4

MATTHEW 8:18-22

## YOUTH WINTER CAMP

Fundraiser: TODAY after service  
\$5 Frito boat, first come first served.

## MEN'S MINISTRY

**Next Men's Breakfast February 11th, 8a**

## Go-Karting Event, Saturday, March 11th

Sing up at the Welcome center by March 1st.

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

**New Study begins February 8th**

Book: Respectable Sins by Jerry Bridges.  
Wednesdays at 9:30am.  
Childcare is provided.

## GOSPEL CLASS

**Sundays starting February 19, 9:30am**

8 week class that goes through basic Doctrine  
in Christianity & what Element believes specifically.

# AUTHORITY

## CALLING DISCIPLES

## THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now by building our own building on the land just north of us.

There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot, we may hand out popsicles to help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15 am service. Please understand that all of these "challenges" are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good things. We hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our building process or how you can participate, you can visit: [www.elementroots.org](http://www.elementroots.org).

- The Element Team

## TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Luke 9:61-62  
Matthew 8:18-22

Luke 9:57-62  
John 12:32

Luke 9:23  
Romans 14:17

January 29, 2017

[www.ourelement.org](http://www.ourelement.org)

# AUTHORITY

## CALLING DISCIPLES

After the Sermon on the Mount the crowds are amazed at Jesus' teaching because He speaks with such Authority. Matthew chapters 8-9 shows us that authority. Today we see Jesus' authority in how He calls disciples to follow Him.

**What are some clubs or social organizations that you are a member (if none, are there any you would want to be a member of)?**

**How is a social club different than being a Christian?**

In Matthew and Luke, Jesus seems to do the opposite of what most people would consider as "warm and friendly"; He actually seems to push people away. In churches today, we preach Jesus like He is chocolate and stand amazed that some people don't want the "chocolate Jesus." When people intentionally go to Jesus and tell Him they want to follow Him, His response is more often than not, "you better think about that before you commit."

**Read Matthew 8:18-22.**

**Are there any conditions that you place on Jesus ("if you do this for me then I will follow you")?**

**What comes to mind when you read the verses above?**

Jesus is very different than all of us. Jesus knows what is in our hearts and what we need. How does Jesus treat prostitutes and tax collectors? He sits down and eats with them. When he sees lepers, He touches them (when everyone else would run away); you see a deep tenderness in Him where most people would have none. When He spends time around religious people, those who claim to be on God's team, He is not that nice, almost like He is trying to push them away.

- **"I will follow you wherever you go."** – This is a 1st century term of wanting to be someone's disciple; it was saying "I want to do what you do." Most religious people will only do what God wants them to do when it is convenient.
- **To another he said, "Follow me."** If a Rabbi called you to be a disciple it was a dream come true; but Jesus reminds us to count the cost.

## WEEK 4 SERMON NOTES

- **Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home."** Jesus' response is that to be a disciple is to place Him first ... even above family.

Matthew and Luke relate these three interactions with Jesus because these three people probably don't know what they are asking; Jesus is trying to wake them up. They, like us, seem to usually misunderstand what it truly means to live under Jesus' authority.

**Sometimes Jesus says some harsh things in scripture. What purpose do Jesus' harsh statements serve in this passage?**

Jesus is being stern to teach, love, and grow us. So, what does it mean to be a follower of Jesus?

- **First, you ENTER the kingdom of God.**

Jesus is talking about following Him in terms of entering *into* something, serving in something, and proclaiming this thing called "the Kingdom." *Tim Keller says, "To become a Christian...is not just a quantitative thing; it's a qualitative thing. It's not simply a matter of improvement, but it's a change in status and nature."* What he says is becoming a Christian is like crossing a border and entering in.

**What is your understanding of the Kingdom of God?**

- **Second, you LIVE in the Kingdom of God.**

The kingdom is to be lived in. It consists of peace, greatness of character, and continual growth in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, humbleness, gentleness, and self-control. We are promised the presence of God...the stuff that will last forever.

**What does it mean to follow Jesus?**

- **Third, you UNDERSTAND THE GREATNESS of the Kingdom**

Jesus can only truly be known in absolute commitment. Absolute commitment means a willingness to abdicate the throne of your life, a willingness to take all conditions off of your allegiance to Him.

**What do you place above Jesus?**

**How can you actually begin to live in the Kingdom of God?**