

Eg - When I was a kid my Dad would take me to the RNA show & we would go around and look at all the animals that was because dad grew up on a farm & it was kind of like a trip down memory lane. However once he received the revelation that every-time we went to Ekka we all came home with the flu! Ekka was no more, it go bye byes:)

One year we sat in the stands watching the sheep dogs round up these sheep & moving them through gates & over ramps. What was really mesmerizing was they way the dogs responded to only voice prompts of their owners. The owner was not allowed to move so he had to rely on whistles & sound and voice prompts to instruct the dogs on what to do. And I remember sitting there as a kid thinking that is awesome how does the man get the dog to respond to his every request or command, and how does he do it without yelling & doing his block. I remember coming home & I tried it on our German Shepherd & he just wouldn't play ball, so the I tried it on our bird & he was useless as well so in desperation for a fleeting moment I thought about the cat.. Nah & I just shook my head in disgust and walked away.

I was their master and none of them would respond like the sheep dogs!

WHY - because they couldn't hear my voice in such a way as to understand & respond an no amount of me doing my Nanna was going to change anything.

John 10: 1-6 - and let's look at what Jesus says about this?

In order for someone to respond to your voice:

1. The Respect Factor- they need to know you are genuine having their best interest at heart, (Shepherd's Heart)

2. Relationship Factor - they listen to his voice he knows them by name because he has spent time with them & they had learnt his ways.

3. Trust Factor- the shepherd has been willing to risk himself to protect the sheep, so over time they become willing to follow the shepherds direction because trust has been established. He has proved himself trustworthy. So now they are willing to follow!

4. Stranger Factor - they will never follow an unfamiliar voice they will simply run away & scatter!

Truth is when it came to my dog I gave him a pat now & then but I did certainly not spend the kind of time necessary to develop with him the kind of respect & trust so he could respond to my voice like the dudes at the Ekka!

Today - I want to ask you how well do you know the shepherds voice? How obedient are you to the shepherd's voice, that still small voice giving direction within. How well can you hear my voice as appointed shepherd over our house under Jesus direction? Do you trust him? Do you follow his instruction? Do you trust me to follow my instruction as I receive it from him?

The sheep dog owners said come & instantly they came, he whistled this way & they went that way, he hand gestured another way & they responded accordingly.. Just how well tuned in are you to the voice of the shepherd? SELAH

LET'S FIND OUT:

Let's look at a few voice commands from the shepherd & you can determine how well you are responding.

MK 1: 14-20 - let's read

Jesus calls Simon & Andrew- At Once they leave all to follow him - and just in case we didn't catch it he does it again with James & John - Jesus calls & without delay they up leave everything to follow him.

Taking Notes - when Jesus calls come expecting you to respond here is one of things you will have to trust him in.

1. YOUR LIVELIHOOD - he will ask for your reliance to be solely in him. Not in the family business taking hand outs from mum & dad. Not in your stash of cash, but your trust for provision will be solely from him & him alone.

Q. What if Jesus said come & it required you to immediately walk away from your livelihood? Could you do it at once, without delay no question's asked? Could you say really sorry mum & dad but God is calling me & I have to follow? This is a big step in learning to come.

Eg Bill Hybels - Kevin / Dad (carry on the bricklaying business but I had to say no - did it cause tension for us absolutely - but when Jesus calls you have to go) I am certain in those days mum & dad did not understand it at all & honestly neither did it. However we do today seeing what God has done some 30years down the track.

Every time someone is called into ministry - they are always snapped out of situations that they love. I have never seen God ever take someone who is board & lazy on the dole & launch them into ministry. It's always out of a time of extreme productivity & contentment.

EG Entertaining Bands - loved it, Sales & delivery driving loved it,

Have you heard the great Shepherd whisper COME - have you surrendered your livelihood to him? Could you walk away tomorrow if Jesus called, could you graciously tell the family sorry guys this might be hard for you to understand but I have to go! **EG** The Lord of the Rings - before coming here God had been speaking to me about the fact that someone has to pay the price for others, some one has to go to mauder, and for 12months I thought it was all about the sacrifice to shepherd & then this call came in for the Gold Coast - and Jesus spoke your not getting it Kev someone has go & that someone is you! **YOUR LIVELIHOOD.**

Jesus says COME

MK 8: 34-38 - let's read (to discover another one)

Jesus now is going beyond the business side of things to get very personal. He is now asking us to deny ourselves. Now that is something totally foreign in our me-istic 21st century society, he is now asking us to lay down our lives, our wants, our dreams & our desires in order to adopt his dreams & desires for the future! Have you felt this call to COME? Have you obeyed or are you still resisting?

2. DYING TO SELF IN ORDER TO LIVE UNTO CHRIST

The Christian life is a daily walk of following the Holy Spirit. It is to make yourself available everyday for God's plans & purposes. Its watching on as others do things that you would really like to do, however you understand that God has called you to a different level of commitment to him. So you say no to others in order to fulfill his plans!

Gal 2:20 it is recognizing that you have been crucified with Christ it is no longer I that live but Christ that lives in me. The life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the son of God who loved me & gave himself for me.

EG - Worship Leaders & Bible Teachers understand this all to well. Its Saturday night everyone wants to out partying but God needs you to on game first thing in the morning. So while others party you stay home & praying waiting on God to empower us for the people!

EG - First Saved touring in bands(I was the lead singer of the band which meant kind of like I was the leader when it came to partying - Now I get saved in the middle of a tour & I have to back on the road for the next 12months - but Jesus says come its time to deny yourself & pick up your cross. Oh ok what does that mean Lord, well you will **not drink with everyone else**, what are you sick we are a band, have your remembered its rock band:) you know sex, drugs & rock and roll. Its funny you bring that up, you will no longer **engage in activities with young ladies** no matter how much they offer & you will tell them plainly no & why (Virginity-not mine to take). You must understand with groupies there is a pecking order you go to the lead singer first, then after that lead guitarist, drummer & keyboards and bass was when you really hit rock bottom, & then finally while everyone is back at the band house to party you will sit around in a corner or your room & **read your bible where all can see.**

OK - you do realize this is a sex, drugs & rock and roll band? and I am the lead singer? Yes - and you want me to do all those things YES - Ok - so you do understand that I might be coming to heaven early:)

Kevin - had to die to self & not worry about being humiliated and worried about others. I had to pick up my cross daily & live a life that was a testimony to my saviour. Tough times - oh yes indeed! but it was the best thing God could have done to get my faith off on a very sure unshakeable foundation of faith!

Have you heard Jesus say COME - it's time to deny yourself & take up your cross for me? He will have called you for sure.

Work - do the people you work with know you are Christ followers? Do they see you reading your bible at lunchtimes?

- *University - do your peers see evidence of Christ's nature shining through you as you set about achieving God's plan & purpose for your life & not your own?*
- *School - do your friends & teachers know where you stand on faith? Is your behaviour a model the nature of Christ so that you stand out from the rest of the world. Do they see your respect for authority & your parents?*
- *Girls you shop, party & play with know what you do on Sundays?*
- *Guys - you play sport or do hobbies know who you belong to & whom you serve?*
- *Business Staff - know that it is God's values that sit at the core of your business?*

Has Jesus said COME - and are you following his instruction?

Here is another one.

Mk10: 17-23 - Let's Read

This rich businessman wanted to know how to be sure he would inherit eternal life & so Jesus told him of the 10 commandments of old. However the commandments still did not give him the guarantee of eternal life so he wanted more assurances. Jesus discerned where the young mans trust was so he went right after the core issue in his life which was his trust in his wealth & he suggests just one extra thing to do. Go sell everything & give your money to the poor. Ouch Jesus really hit the mark on that one as it says the man went away sad because he was wealthy

Have you heard Jesus say COME in this area,

3. WEALTH CREATION & DISTRIBUTION - has God whispered to you I have given you the ability to create wealth in order to care for those less fortunate than yourself. **EG GHANA** \$ thanks for being such generous hearted people already we have \$ in plaques.

Does abundant generosity mark your life in the world, are you storing up for yourself treasure in heaven! That is where I am putting my treasure thank you very much it is untouchable by the GFC:)

Has the Shepherd called COME - its time to learn the reason behind why I have given you the ability to create wealth. It is not just for you but it is also for you to use to help those less fortunate. The sad part about this one is when Jesus asked for his money to be shared then that was the time that he decided that going to hell was more preferable option than parting with his riches.

EG Called you to create wealth for vision & mission. Everytime you read our Mission Magazine you hear the voice of the shepherd calling (In fact this weekend we have with our - CCCLIVE.TV - Pakenham - CLT) - One Church /Multiple Locations / Multiple Expressions,

Jesus would calling about the purpose of wealth!

You might be thinking why would would God ask us to make such extravagant sacrifices?

1. He led the way in making the greatest sacrifice of all through sending his Son Jesus to set us free from sin & help us get back into relationship with him,
2. Sacrifice trains us to fully trust in him & walk in obedience in every area of our life,
3. Because he is such a loving God that he doesn't want any to perish but all to come to repentance,

God has done all he can do to make salvation & eternal life available for all. He has now handed the ball to you & I to carry his message out into all the world.

Have you heard Jesus call COME in this area - Jesus is calling out its time for you to learn the art of fishing. Its time to be trained to become a fisher of men & women. One of the dangers of friendship evangelism is that the friendship gets in the way of the evangelism. Now we have a friendship & we don't want to endanger that friendship by now sharing the gospel. We must always keep in mind the great commission **Mt 28:19** - Go and make disciples of all the nations (which are in every suburb here on the GC) baptise them in the name of the Father, and of the son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age!

What priority is friendship in the equation? None - the **mission** is to Partner with the Holy Spirit to lead people to become fully devoted followers of Christ. If friendship follows that is a bonus & byproduct. Our reward is to know that we have rescued another soul from the flames!

Have you responded to Jesus call to COME - and I will make you fishers of men!

4. FISHERS OF MEN - have you answer this call to be trained by Jesus to become better, smarter & a more skilled fisherman? Have you made the decision to spend time with him on the mountain top so he can reveal himself to you, so he can train you to become more effective for his plan's & purposes?

EG - Bible Reading & Journaling - chronicling God's activity in your life (Ps Wayne - Life Skills for Leaders- daily devotions is where it all starts)

Let me ask you a question? How do you get better at fishing? Read books about fishing, watch DVDs about fishing maybe a little, hang out with some who is good at fishing. With all those things you will get a little bit better at fishing. But if you really to become great at fishing what have you got to do FISH, you have got to go where the fish are, you have got to hang out with fish get to know there feeding patterns.

Q. When was the last time you intentionally spent time with someone who does not know Christ with the express purpose in mind of listening to them to help them on their journey towards faith? If you haven't done it recently - ask yourself WHY NOT?

THEN - PENCIL IN SOMEONE TO START TO LEARN TO FISH AGAIN! - and understand this fishing is a very sensitive game you try and slam dunk that fish & he is out there. It is a gentle process of listening well & look for opportunity to steer the conversation towards faith when the Holy Spirit opens the door...

Did you know that the scriptures say that we will not experience the fullness of our faith until we are about the Father plans & purpose - which is seeking & saving those who are lost. Do you catch every fish? NO - but here is the deal, the more you fish the more you catch? and what do your dog tags say Mavs?

Prov- the fruit of the righteous is a tree of life & he or she who wins souls is wise!

Friends this is so important..

EG - Bill Hybels tells of an encounter with an ex general in the military & he was talking about leadership & how when he makes a wrong call people die. And he explained to Bill about the weight of that on he life when he made a wrong call & a whole platoon of young men died and he finished by saying boy you don't want to know what that feels like. Bill thought about it for a minute & the thought to himself if only my mistakes we about life & death that would be walk in the park. He said our mission if we fail to engage or make a wrong call - people spend eternity in Hell eternally separated from the love of God. Life & death is a walk in the park compared to the responsibility we have to carry!

Have you responded to Jesus call to COME follow me & I will prepare & make you fishers of men!

A final COME for today - how is your soul?

Are you still walking around with the weight of the world on your shoulder?

Are you still carrying around the weight of guilt for your sin?

COME unto me & I will give you rest for you soul! You know the problem with sin is this. We are born into it so we never really know anything else. So it is not until something happens & you experience life without sin that you suddenly realize just how much weight you are on.

EG - Previous church guy in his mid 40s & someone talked him into going to have laser eye surgery. He did not feel like he needed it because as far as he was concerned he was normal. However after having it he became so overwhelmed at the vibrant colours & wonderful complexity of the world around him. He was in shock for weeks at a world he did not know existed. So it is when you experience the freedom that is in Christ, once sin is confessed and forgiveness is granted God supernaturally removes the sin nature from within us he replaces it with his nature & character and from that point in time every changes or at least it should if someone has truly been what the bible calls born again. Born of God's spirit - and once you receive Jesus Christ as your lord & Saviour you now have this supernatural peace that surpasses all understanding. Once you make this transition of making peace with your God, the burden is lifted, rest enters your soul and suddenly you start to really live whereas before that you just existed under the weight of sin.

Jesus came to set us free & all we have to do is cry out to him to save us!

COME Follow - can you hear & follow the shepherds voice?

5. BURDENS ARE GONE - REST FOR YOUR SOUL has COME!

Once our Spiritual Journey has begin through faith in Christ - we then move on towards the maturity our faith! That journey comes under the direction of the Holy Spirit, the spirit of Jesus Christ and every so often you will hear his call to come step up to a greater commitment of your life to the Father's plan & purpose on not our own.

Once you have heard the first call to COME - for forgiveness of sins!

- **BURDENS ARE GONE - REST FOR YOUR SOUL** - the salvation journey has begun,
- **YOUR LIVELIHOOD** - to refuse to trust in our livehood behind but understand it is simply a means to an end.
- **DYING TO SELF IN ORDER TO LIVE UNTO CHRIST** -leave your plans & purposes behind for the Fathers plan & Purpose,
- **WEALTH CREATION & DISTRIBUTION** - you start to plan how to gather wealth to support those who are less fortunate!
- **FISHERS OF MEN** - you put yourself out where the fish to learn the art of fishing. You become intentional about reaching people who are far from Christ,

Which one of these has Jesus been calling to you about & so far you have not answered the call?

Friends - I cannot speak for other churches in our nation but this is why CCCLIVE.TV exists. We are the church that Jesus died for, we are the hope of the world & we have vision & mission from the Father that he expects us to faithfully implement in our nation & then beyond these shores.

If we take seriously Jesus call to COME FOLLOW HIM by

- **BURDENS ARE GONE - REST FOR YOUR SOUL** - the salvation journey has begun,
- **YOUR LIVELIHOOD** - to refuse to trust in our livehood behind but understand it is simply a means to an end.
- **DYING TO SELF IN ORDER TO LIVE UNTO CHRIST** -leave our dreams, plans & purposes behind for the Fathers plan & Purpose,
- **OUR WEALTH CREATION for HIS DISTRIBUTION** - you start to plan how to gather wealth to support those who are less fortunate!
- **FISHERS OF MEN** - you put yourself out where the fish are to learn the art of fishing. The only way to reach people for Christ is to intentionally go where they are, and let the Holy Spirit teach you how to fish, listen for bites, look for openings to try and guide the conversation, bring them in & then let them run again. Let them nibble till all of their questions are answered & they are then simple ready to be reeled in without a fight! The only way to learn to fish - IS TO FISH!

EG Dogs / Cats - jump in the water & get the dead bird, jump up & fetch the Frisbee. I'll do!