

MATTHEW

Advent of the King

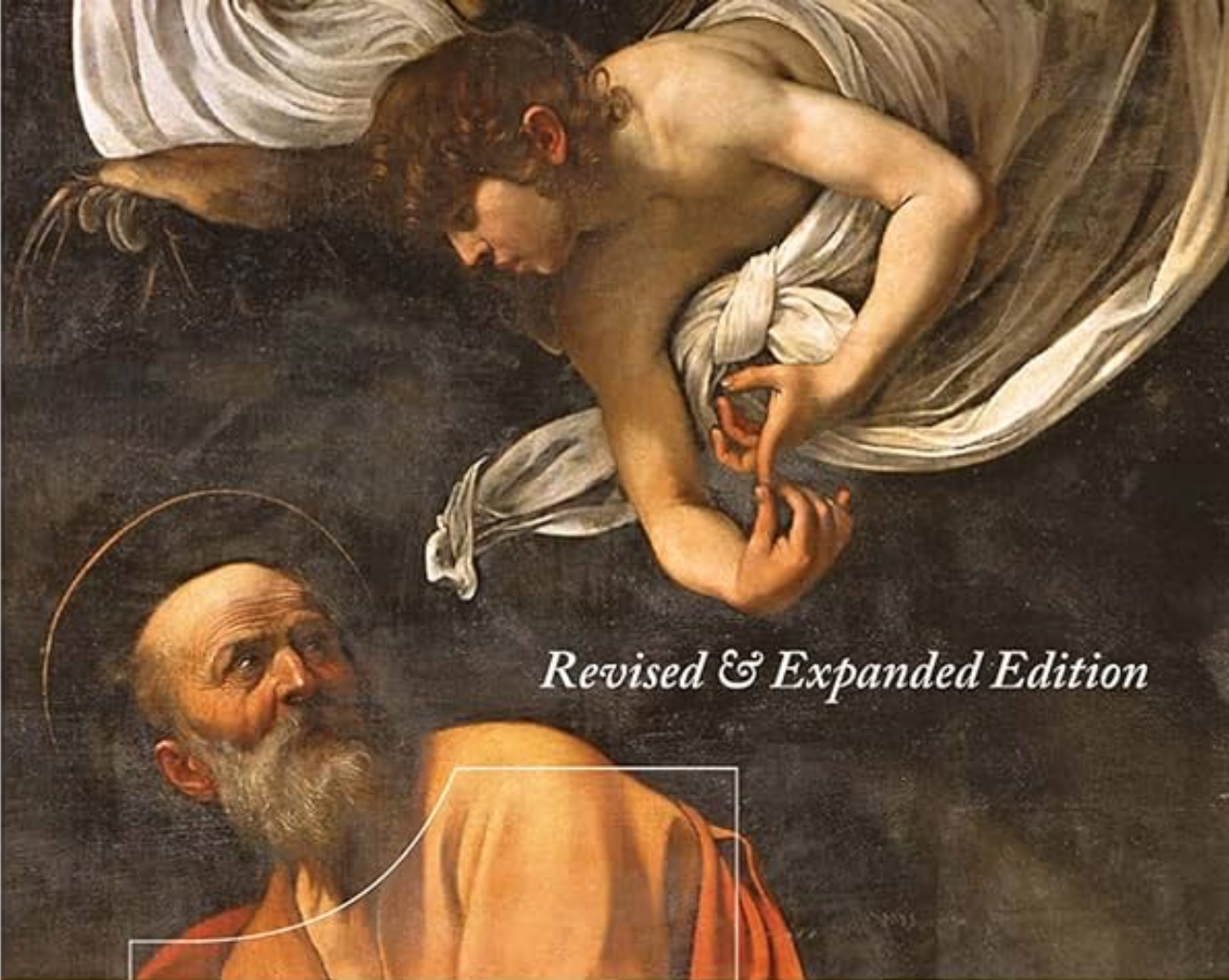


Matthew 4:18-22

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ And 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, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

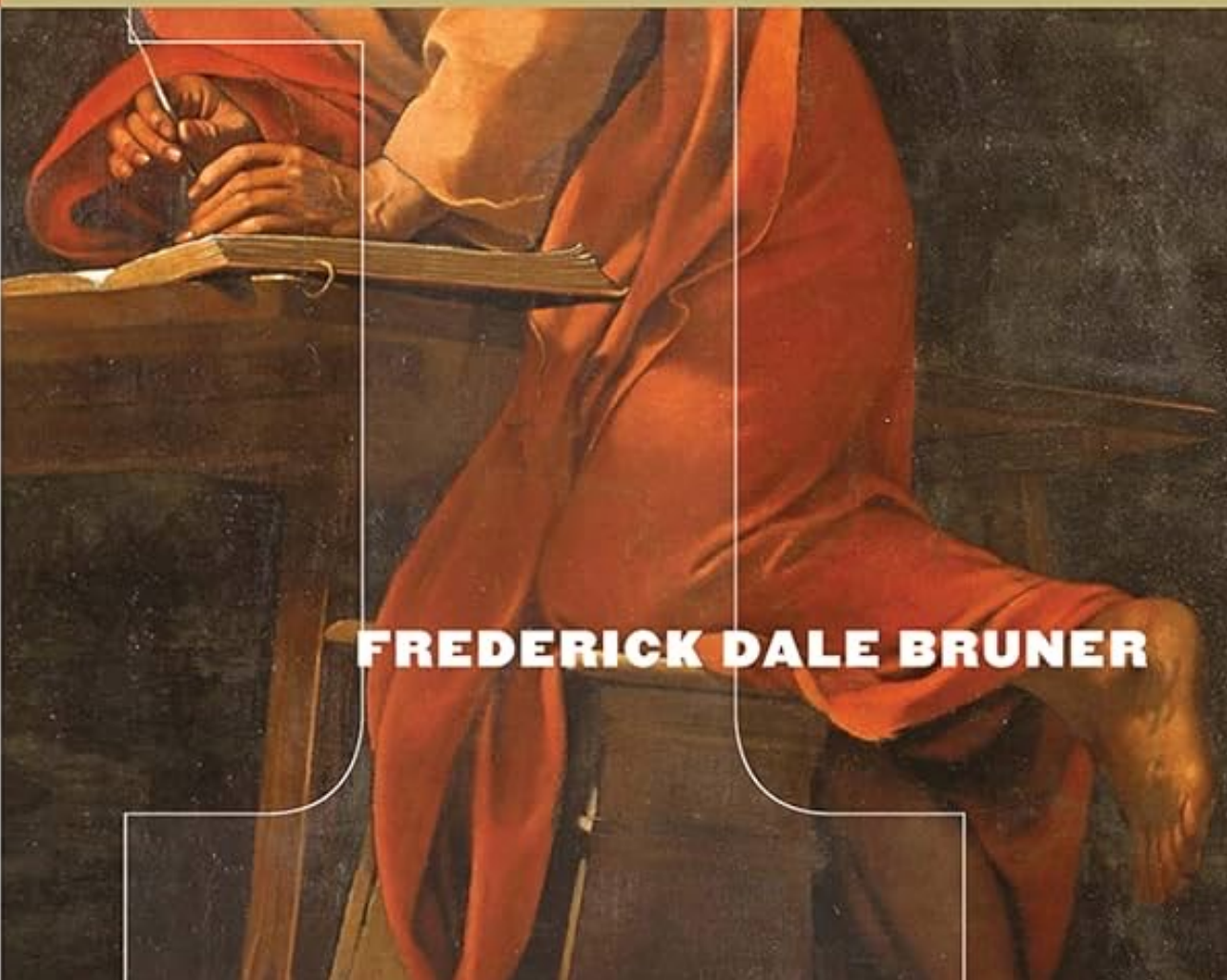
1. Apprenticeship: To be a disciple is to learn the way of Jesus

"Follow me..." (v. 19)



Revised & Expanded Edition

THE CHRISTBOOK *Matthew 1–12*



FREDERICK DALE BRUNER

“Follow me” meant, in rabbinic speech, “become my students, be apprenticed to me, join my school, live with me.” Students lived with their rabbis; they did not merely hear their lectures. Discipleship was study-in-residence, home-schooling; it was a live-in arrangement with a teacher. The unusual feature in Jesus’ school, however, is that Jesus recruits students. Ordinarily, students came asking for the privilege of studying (and living with) rabbis. But Jesus is no ordinary rabbi; he is Lord. And no one comes to this Lord by own’s own initiative; the Lord comes to them first.”

2. Obedience: To be a disciple is to follow the call of Jesus

"He said to them..." (v. 19)

"he called them" (v. 21)



“Those who are found not living as he taught should know that they are not really Christians, even if his teachings are on their lips, for he said that not those who merely profess but those who also do the works will be saved.”

—Justin Martyr

3. Transformation: To be a disciple is to be changed by the grace of Jesus

“Follow me and I will make you...” (v. 19)



When Christ calls us by his grace we ought not only to remember what we are, but we ought also to *think of what he can make us*. It is, "Follow me, and *I will make you*." We should repent of what we have been, but rejoice in what we may be. It is not "Follow me, because of what you are already." It is not "Follow me, because you may make something of yourselves," but "Follow me, because of what I will make you." I might say of each one of us as soon as we are converted, "It does not yet appear what we shall be."

—Charles Spurgeon

4. Mission: To be a disciple is to embrace
the purpose of Jesus

"I will make you fishers of men" (v. 19)

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

5. Costly: To be a disciple is to carry the cross of Jesus

"They left the nets... they left the boat and their father" (vv. 20, 22)

"If any one would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Matt. 16:24)



“When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die... The yoke and the burden of Christ are his cross. To go one’s way under the sign of the cross is not misery and desperation, but peace and refreshment for the soul, it is the highest joy.”

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

To be a disciple is:

1. To learn the way of Jesus (*apprenticeship*)
2. To follow the call of Jesus (*obedience*)
3. To be changed by the grace of Jesus (*transformation*)
4. To embrace the purpose of Jesus (*mission*)
5. To carry the cross of Jesus (*costly*)