

THE SENDING

JOHN 20:21

Introduction:

- Michael W. Smith is perhaps CCM's most highly acclaimed praise and worship artist. But he wasn't always that way. He started out pretty rough and raw. Over the years he grew, matured, and developed.
- Tragically, many believers who claim Jesus Christ as Lord, who have been saved for years, have never grown, matured and developed in their walk with the Lord. They are just as carnal now as they were when they came to Christ decades earlier.
- This morning, we are going to examine the life of the Disciple John. We know him as the "Apostle of Love." But he wasn't always that way. Over time, he grew, matured, and developed in his relationship with Jesus.

John – The Apostle of Love

- John 1:1-4; | John 4:7-12
- Author of:
 - Gospel of John
 - 1, 2, 3 John
 - Revelation
- A _____ in the 1st Century Church who commissioned Paul.
- _____ who prayed that Samaritan believers might receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:14-16).

But John wasn't always the "Apostle of Love." In fact, in his earlier years, when Jesus called him to follow Him, Jesus gave John a nickname.

John – _____ (Mark 3:17)

He was nicknamed this for a reason:

- Luke 9:46
- Luke 9:49-50
- Luke 9:54
- Mark 10:37

The Lesson?

Jesus calls us _____ to follow Him...
...but He refuses to let us _____!

The key to my growth, maturity, and development? Just read Mark 3:14.

1. _____ with Jesus.

He appointed the twelve so that they might be with him...

2. Serve Jesus _____.

...and [that] He might send them out to preach and have authority to cast out demons.

Conclusion:

What is an area God may be calling me to step out of my comfort zone?