

THE DRAFT

(Get into the Game Part 2)

None of us enjoy the feeling of being rejected.

Matthew 4:18-22 (NIV)

Background: In Jesus' day, the religious teachers were known as "*Rabbis*." Every mom and dad wanted their son to become a Rabbi.

At age of 6, Jewish boys would go to the local synagogue to enter into training to memorise the Torah (*first five books of the Bible*). Jewish girls were not educated.

By age 10, if you weren't one of the smart ones, you were basically told, "*go home and learn the family business*". Those remaining would go onto memorise the remaining 39 books in the Old Testament by the age of 13. Again, if you were not one of the brightest, you were told, "*go home and learn the family business*."

The few remaining would go through a final interview process to become a disciple of a Rabbi. You'd either hear "*go home and learn the family business*" or "*come, follow me*."

In those days, to be chosen by a Rabbi and to follow him was a huge thing.

It meant, he believed in you and that you had what it took to become a Rabbi.

Jesus was not part of the religious establishment, but many considered Him a Rabbi. So, when Jesus said "*Come, follow Me*." He was in effect saying, "*I choose you. I am drafting you into My team*."

Can you imagine what this meant to them?

Maybe for the first time in their lives, someone had confidence in them to become something more than they settled for!

Jesus called these fishermen away from their employment and drafted them into His team to play out His game plan of bringing lost people back into a relationship with Him.

So, what does this story have to do with us? ... their story is our story!

Jesus has drafted each of us to be a member in His team in what He is doing around the world.

The emphasis is on 'Jesus' doing the choosing – not the other way around!

Jesus said; "*You did not choose Me. I chose you*." **John 15:16.**

Jesus reinforces His confidence in us when He chooses us to be in His Team.

If you're already in the game and serving, contributing and involved in what God is doing, you might think this series of talks isn't for you?

This series is just as much for you who are already in the game serving. But remember the best athletes are always improving their skills to go to the next level.

Imagine the change in our society and the world around us if we all reached our God-given potential!

1 Thessalonians 1:4 (MSG) *...God not only loves you very much but also has put His hand on you for something special.*

Everyday is pregnant with possibilities to make a difference for God.

We have been chosen, selected and drafted into God's team to play our His game plan of redemption.

God has drafted us onto His team, that's a done deal but will you say "yes" and sign on?

- Are we prepared to run the gauntlet for the cause of Christ?
- To be all He has called us to be, with all the dangers and obstacles involved?
- Will we resign ourselves to being "domesticated" Christ followers, just doing enough to get across the line?
- Or will we rise and be commitment to the great cause of Jesus?

Maybe you have served God in the past with passion but through failure, hurt, age or busyness now find it hard to pick up the baton again with the same enthusiasm.

Would you consider digging deep within yourself and unleash that passion that once drove you to serve God?

Mark 10:45 (NIV) *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.*

Group Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever been rejected and not chosen? How did you feel and respond?
2. List 3 of the most common obstacles we face that prevents us from serving God.
3. Once you have compiled your list, discuss what practical remedies you can implement to bring you out of the 'grandstand' and onto the 'playing field.'