

Jesus Calls His Disciples

Matthew 4:18-25

18 And walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was 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 And they immediately left the 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 And they immediately left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

Casting nets; mending nets daily routine of life...vocation, career, a way of living if you love it. One person *I live for my vacation & get depressed days before I know I have to go back to daily grind.*

Don't know what happened to Zebedee but his wife Salome devoted believer & boys followed. *Early is time a child can be shaped for Lord*...later it's much harder. Jesus comes during the activities of our life & says follow me. A higher calling in life, God's intended purpose the creator has for us. To glorify Him & catch souls for the K of G.

Following may involve giving up what you are doing, change of vocation, dedicating profession or business to Lord. Highest purpose in life is to know God & glorify Him; to be used for His will & purposes. Peter cast net thousands caught John mending net of broken lives by God's love.

Immediately but not first encounter Jn 1:35-42 Andrew a disciple of John the Baptist is standing w/ John as Jesus walked by and John id Him as '**Lamb of God**'. Andrew followed and stayed the day w/ Jesus. Then went found his brother Simon saying '**we have found the Messiah**' & brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him & said '**you are Simon, you shall be called Cephas**, Peter (rock) **prophetic**. Jesus sees in us what we or others don't see.

Jesus Calls His Disciples

Matthew 4:18-25

We don't know how much time elapsed between this & the next encounter but the spirit was working. John's gospel covers the first year of Jesus ministry around Galilee. ***No one comes to the son unless the Father's draws them.*** Unnoticeable at first but the disciples were being drawn until total immediate commitment.

The next meeting takes place as Jesus is walking along the Sea of Galilee Mk 1, Mat 4 Jesus sees Simon & Andrew casting a net while James & John, a stone throw away, are mending nets. Mundane routine of life. He calls all four to follow.

Josephus, one time Gov of Galilee & Jewish historian, writes that in his day 330 fishing boats on lake. Meat only eaten once a week but fish a staple diet. Bethsaida where miracle of 5000 fed was city of Peter and Andrew.

Fish **salted** after caught then transported—no refrig. Fresh fish a great **delicacy**. City names reveal importance of this industry. Bethsaida '**house of fish**' Tarichea '**the place of salt fish**' – **imported** to Jerusalem, Rome & other locals. Area of Galilee lay on the main trade routes to Africa, Asia, Rome, Egypt and Jerusalem. Fishing a big business.

In Lk 5 Peter, Andrew and the others are back in the boats fishing. It seems the commitment to Jesus was half hearted, drawn by excitement of the moment but now back to their old trade. There is such a thing as progressive revelation to where we are drawn in stages and finally to a complete surrender.

Jesus Calls His Disciples

Matthew 4:18-25

Lk 5:1 Now it came about that while the multitude were pressing around Him and listening to the word of God, He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret; 2 and He saw two boats lying at the edge of the lake; but the fishermen had gotten out of them, and were washing their nets. 3 And He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little way from the land. And He sat down and began teaching the multitudes from the boat. 4 And when He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." 5 And Simon answered and said, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but at Your bidding I will let down the nets." 6 And when they had done this, they enclosed a great quantity of fish; and their nets began to break; 7 and they signaled to their partners in the other boat, for them to come and help them. And they came, and filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink. 8 But when Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" 9 For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken; 10 and so also James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men." 11 And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

3) Peter at this point, after a year of erratic response to the call to follow needed some special attention. So Jesus got in Peters' boat and put out a little from land & began to teach those on shore. Peter a captive audience.

Maybe Peter was thinking '*I've heard it all before*'. Destined to be a status quo disciple, casual follower. But Jesus had other plans. He was on Peter's turf, fishing. Peter had already heard preaching, seen miracles, demons cast out, mother in law healed, water turned to wine (Jn 2) yet up to this point it made no radical change in him. '***Not by might nor by power but by my spirit says the Lord***'. We may give up on God-He will never give up on us.

Let's go fishing :4. Peter from boyhood knew the lake; **patterns** of the fish, **conditions** best to fish in, **appearance** of the water if fish were around or not, fisherman's intuition. Jesus was a landlubber to these hard core fishermen He lived 30 miles from any body of water.

Jesus Calls His Disciples

Matthew 4:18-25

Worked hard :5..Peter respects Jesus & will humor him but *not gonna catch anything*. “Master” a seafaring term for ‘Captain of his boat’. Noteworthy KJV vs 4 Jesus says ***‘let down the nets’*** and vs 5,6 *‘At your command Lord’* Peter let down the net and the nets began to break. It seems Peter is still half hearted in his faith & service to the Lord. ***‘Let it be done according to your faith’***. His was half hearted

Half hearted service to God always puts a strain on our net/ministry. Eager to let down no problem but **partial** submission is a subtle resistance. I wonder how many blessings we miss & all the fish that get away because of half hearted obedience. Elisha/Joash **2 Kings 13** strike 3 x’s. Widow w/ jar of oil **2 Ki 4** two blind **Mat 9:28** ‘be it done according to your faith.’

Peter comes to a revelation :8 of himself in light of who Jesus is; ***‘depart from me Lord I am a sinful man.’*** Self knowledge is hard to handle. To know the depth of God’s love for us in spite of who we are & the wrongs we’ve done, humbles us.’ Peter now realizes the value of Christ call on his life that he had been resisting. Fishing his passion & Christ second.

In saying this Peter is thinking back to previous encounters & words Jesus spoke now feeling *‘I’m no rock, I’m more like a dirt clod, don’t waste your time on me I’m not worth it, I’m a failure.’* A natural response when encountering the supernatural God. Revelation magnifies our sinfulness. wickedness

Job *‘I have heard you w/ my ears, now my eye sees You wherefore I abhor myself in dust and ashes.’* **Isaiah** *‘Woe unto me for I am ruined I am a man of unclean lips...’* Paul *wretched man that I am*

Jesus Calls His Disciples

Matthew 4:18-25

Jesus met Peter at a place he could relate; the high seas, a fisherman in his boat & brought him to a higher commitment to be a fisher of men. The very fact that Peter saw himself as a sinner would enable him to relate to & reach other sinners. Where revelation comes commitment follows.

Fear not from now on :10.... A breaking from the past to a new future, 'catching men alive. Peculiar phrase in Greek only seen in one other place. **2 Tim 2:26 'and they (unsaved) may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive (lit caught alive) by him to do his will.**

So Jesus tells Peter, his ministry is to catch men alive, out of the hands of the devil who had caught them alive.

Peter follows for 2 more years until discouragement sets in. At a particular low point he said '*I'm going fishing*'. Peter had denied the Lord, Jesus was crucified, Peter felt like a failure, not like a rock or fisher of men but a **looser**. We tend to want to go back to the old life we know when we feel like a failure. Peter did but caught nothing.

Jesus again on shore, Jn 21 resurrected body, helps Peter find fish, a great haul. On shore w/ fish Jesus said '**Do you love Me more than these?**' If you do I will make you what you can't make yourself; rock, fisher of men, servant in My kingdom. If so, feed my sheep. First sermon 3000 2nd 5000

A decision for Jesus is an eternal one w/o regrets. The fads & fashions of the world come & go & leave you empty & alone but following Jesus promises life & that more abundant. **So taste and see the Lord is good.** He Forgives any and every sin and prepares a home us in heaven.

Jesus Calls His Disciples

Matthew 4:18-25

23 And Jesus was going about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people. 24 And the news about Him went out into all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, taken with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them. 25 And great multitudes followed Him from Galilee and Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and from beyond the Jordan.

23-25 *Teaching* for building up believer's faith; *Preaching* for bringing in sinners to salvation; *Healing* for binding up broken lives. **Josephus** Jewish historian said there were over 200 cities in Galilee area w/ population no less than 15,000 each. The towns names cover a 100 mile radius & people literally walked hundreds of miles to see Jesus.

Today some struggle to drive 20 miles to get to church by car. Greg, single father Hawaii Kai w/ 2 boys to NS Waimea falls park 8:30 service taught SS. After 6 years of divorce--Restored marriage sons missionaries he & wife marriage ministry...God honors faith.