

## **Matthew 4:18-20, Mark 1:16-22 – Jesus Calls His Disciples**

### **Introduction**

1. Fishing: Immediate gratification or slow patient process
2. Fishing for Men – Evangelism, Witnessing
3. Followers of Christ are Fishers of Men
4. The means by which the Lord brings His sheep into His flock is through preaching the Gospel and our Witness

**Main Idea** Jesus purposefully chose His disciples, commanding them to follow Him. As disciples of Christ we go into the world and compel others to follow Jesus, becoming His disciple.

### **God Initiates: Jesus Chose His Disciples (Mark 1:16, Mat 4:18)**

1. Jesus intentionally goes to find His disciples in Galilee
2. These men were not unfamiliar with Jesus (**John 1:35ff**)
3. These men came to trust the Lord earlier through witnesses to Jesus' Messiahship
4. Jesus chose His disciples, they did not choose Him (**Jn 15:16**)
  - a. God always chooses His followers (Noah, Abraham, Moses, Daniel, Israel, the Prophets) who will do ministry with Him
  - b. God seeks those who worship Him (**John 4**)
5. The Sea of Galilee was an important Business Local for Fishing
  - a. Peter, James, John, and Andrew were partners in business
  - b. Jesus goes to the Sea of Galilee to find & commission them

### **God Calls And Draws: Follow Me! (Mark 1:17; Mat 4:19)**

1. Jewish Rabbis did not search for students, it was the other way around – Jesus went to call them!
  - a. The disciples did not have to pass a Biblical Literacy Test
  - b. They did not have to prove they were up to the task
2. The World of Religion has people follow a path, pillars, tenets
  - a. Moses had the people follow the *Torah* (**Deut 5:33**)
  - b. Jesus has His followers follow HIM!
3. Following Jesus
  - a. A Call to Repent and Believe (**Luke 5:32, John 10:26-27**)
  - b. A Call to Count the Cost (**Luke 14:28-30**)
  - c. A Call to Die (**Mark 8:34**)
  - d. A Call to Rest (**Matthew 11:28-30**)
  - e. A Call to be a Christian, A Disciple (**Acts 11:26c**)
  - f. A Call to Obey Christ and Become Like Him
  - g. A Call to Follow Him Individually and Corporately
  - h. A Call to Follow Him Intimately
  - i. A Call to Follow Him Completely

- j. A Call to Follow Him in Humility (**Galatians 2:20**)
  - k. A Call to Follow Him Openly
  - l. A Call to Follow Him Constantly
  - m. A Call to Follow Him Bravely and Boldly – Risk it All!
  - n. A Call to Follow Him Purposefully – Be *Fishers of Men*
4. What is at Stake to Follow Jesus and Compelling others to Follow: Eternal Life or Eternal Death (**Matthew 13:47-50**)
    - a. The Means by which God gathers His people out of the Kingdom of Man/World and into the Kingdom of God/Light is through Proclamation of the Word of God
    - b. This is Man Fishing – Look at the World and Cast Your Net with the Gospel Message
    - c. Labor to draw people out of the Worldly Ocean and into God's Dagnet found in the Salvation Christ Provides

### **God Empowers: They Left Everything (Mk 1:18-20, Mat 4:20-22)**

1. God Equips the Called
2. To Follow Jesus Means to Abandon Everything For Him (**Luke 14:26-27**); It is a clear and decisive break with the world
  - a. The Disciples left their nets (Their livelihood)
  - b. The Disciples left their boats (Their possessions)
  - c. The Disciples even left their Families (Father Zebedee)
3. The Lord's Call is to Go into the Nations and Make Disciples
  - a. God empowered them to carry out the task
  - b. Thomas Boston – *The Art of Manfishing*
4. We spread the Net – Preach the Gospel; The Lord makes the Catch – He gathers them in
5. Following Jesus is no Kierkegaardian Blind Leap of Faith – these men knew Jesus and were already convinced He was the Messiah = they Believed!
6. They Became United to Christ, the Son of God, & His Mission
7. By God's Grace and the Power of the Spirit, these men submitted themselves to Jesus' Authority – Gospel Action!
8. Every time Jesus called, they followed
  - a. They did not refuse, seek counsel, or pray about it – they obeyed the voice of the Master
  - b. They followed Jesus until their dying breath
9. Are we following Jesus?
  - a. None are in the Kingdom but those who Follow Jesus
  - b. Those who Follow Jesus are Fisher's of Men
10. What do we need to do to be Fisher's of Men?
  - a. Intentional talks about Jesus with friends and neighbors
  - b. Patient, Relational Evangelism – developing friendships