



“Jesus Calls His First Disciples”
Mathew 4:18-25
The Preparation of the King

Matthew 4:18-25 (NASB 1995)

¹⁸ Now as Jesus was 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 Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. ²¹ 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.

²³ Jesus was going throughout 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 The news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them.

²⁵ Large crowds followed Him from Galilee and the Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and from beyond the Jordan.

What’s Jesus calling them to do?

(v.19) “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

Why did Jesus come?

(Lk.19:10) “...to seek and to save that which was lost.”

(Lk.4:18-19)

¹⁸ “THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO BRING GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, ¹⁹ TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD.”

God cares about people and wants to see them reached.

(Rm.5:8) “while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

(v.19) “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

Jesus calls us to “Follow Him”

(v.18) Now as Jesus was 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.

(Jn.1:29) Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

(Jn.3:30) He must increase, but I must decrease.

(Jn.1:12) But as many as have received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,

(v.19) ¹⁹ And He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

Jesus called the first disciples...

1. Who’s calling? Jesus

(Ac.10:36) ...Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all) -

2. What’s He asking me to do? Follow Him

3. Who do I follow? Jesus

(Jn.13:34-35) ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

(Jn.15:7-8) ⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

4. What will be the result? I'm going to make you

5. What am I supposed to do? Fish for men

(2 Cor.5:9) Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.

(Rom.15:20-21) ²⁰ And thus I aspired to preach the gospel, not where Christ was already named, so that I would not build on another man's foundation; ²¹ but as it is written, "THEY WHO HAD NO NEWS OF HIM SHALL SEE, AND THEY WHO HAVE NOT HEARD SHALL UNDERSTAND."

(v.20) ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

(v.21-22) ²¹ 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.

Who are Peter, Andrew, James and John?

(v.21-22) ²¹ 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.

(v.23) ²³ Jesus was going throughout 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.

Jesus' ministry...

Teaching

Doing Miracles

(v.23b) healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.

What happened when Jesus did miracles?

He grew in popularity

(v.24a) ²⁴ The news about Him spread throughout all Syria;

People grew in faith

(v.24b) and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them.

People followed Him

(v.25) ²⁵ Large crowds followed Him from Galilee and the Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and from beyond the Jordan.

(Mt.16:24) ²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me."

(v.19) "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1.) If you could pass on some skill or knowledge to an apprentice, what would you pass on?
- 2.) What were Simon and Andrew doing when Jesus approached them (v.18)?
- 3.) What exactly did Jesus say to Simon and Andrew (v.19)?
- 4.) What did Jesus do when He saw the two brothers, James and John (v.21)?
- 5.) How do you fish for men?
- 6.) What possessions, goals, dreams, or relationships are keeping you from following Jesus wholeheartedly today?
- 7.) In what area of your life will you follow Jesus more consciously this week?