



¹⁸ While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is 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 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 Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. – **Matthew 4:18-22**

“Come and follow Me” is:

1. An invitation to COMMUNITY.

¹⁹ And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
– **Matthew 4:19**

2. An invitation to engage GOD’S WORD.

¹⁰³ How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!
– **Psalms 119:103**

3. A statement that Jesus believes in US.

¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide... – **John 15:16a**

DIGGING DEEPER

LUKE 5:1-11

- (Note that it is unclear whether this passage describes the same event as **MATTHEW 4:18-22** and **MARK 1:14-20**, or whether it is a second calling of these four disciples.)
- How do you think Peter and his fishing partners were feeling as they were cleaning their nets (before Jesus told them to go out again)? When have you felt the same way?
- Based on verse 5, why did Peter go out again to lower his nets? What can we learn from Peter’s response to Jesus?
- In verse 8, what was Peter’s response to Jesus after witnessing this miraculous catch? This response seems similar to Isaiah’s upon seeing the Lord on His throne (**ISAIAH 6:5**). Why do you think they responded this way?
- Peter, Andrew, James, and John were net fishing, which is different than line fishing (with a fishing pole). Fishermen would repeatedly throw a circular net with heavy weights around its perimeter into the water and pull it back up. This was labor-intensive and unpredictable. (They had *worked* all night without catching anything.) How does this imagery relate to Jesus’s call that they would be “fishers of people?”
- What did Peter and Andrew do when they realized they were catching so many fish that their net was starting to tear (verse 7)? How do you think that experience helped guide the apostles as the early church was rapidly growing (for example, see **ACTS 6:1-8**)? What does this teach us?
- Why was Peter finally successful in his fishing? Similarly, what gives us success in our calling (see **1 CORINTHIANS 3:5-9**)? How then should we respond to God’s call?