

GCH June 23

Mat 4:18-22 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.

What do we follow?

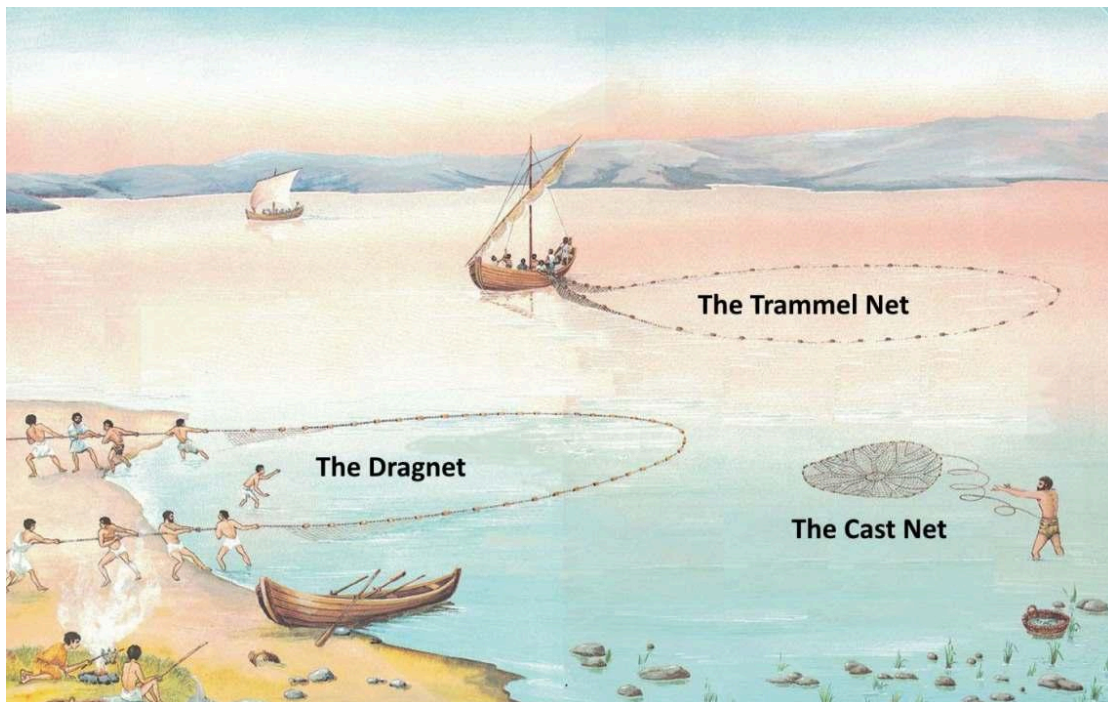
What do we think of when we think of discipline?

Are we open to change in our lives?

This was not the first time Jesus met these men, and other gospels describe previous encounters (John 1:35-42). This is the encounter when Jesus called them to leave their jobs and homes to follow Him with a full-time commitment.

Verse 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.

What is the significance of job identification?



The trammel net was three nets in one: two large mesh walls about five feet high, in between...a net of finer mesh. It would then be slowly pulled around by the boat into a circle, a

kind of open ended barrel, Each evening before the night's fishing began, and after every throw of the net, the fisherman extricated each fish from within the mesh, cleaning and mending.

The dragnet was operated by two teams. One team took the net, which was like a wall some 100 feet long and 12 feet high and attached by ropes at each end. The bottom side was weighted by sinkers. The boat sailed out with the rest of the crew until the net stretched and then circled back to shore. Both teams dragged it to shore. The dragnet was the longest and heaviest and required a larger boat to maneuver it into place.

The cast net, a circular net about 20 feet in diameter with weights attached to the bottom edge. The cast net could be thrown either from a boat or from the shoreline folded in a manner that would allow it to open completely when it landed in the water and then descend like a parachute, trapping fish beneath it. To retrieve the fisherman would dive into the water and pull the bottom of the net together carefully.

What were the men doing when Jesus approached them?

Does Jesus "approach" us in the same circumstances?

(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.

What is the significance of "follow me"? How is that different from someone like John the Baptist?

It is likely that the men would know just what Jesus meant by "fishers of men". What do you think it means for them?

What would our response be today?

Have you had a personal encounter with Jesus in a similar manner? How did you respond?

What might be some "occupational hazards" of this kind of fishing work?

What might be some occupational hazards of being "fishers of men?"

(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.

Is there anything similar about this encounter than the previous one with Simon and Andrew? Anything different?

What was the reaction of Zebedee?

What does this tell us about following Jesus?

*Luk 5:10-11 and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men."
(11) And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.*

Mar 1:19-20 And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. (20) And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.