

**On Earth as It is in Heaven**  
**Matthew 4:18-22**

**Notes**

*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. <sup>19</sup> And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed Him." (Mt. 4:18-22)*

**Jesus Doesn't Choose the Best, He Chooses the Willing**

*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.*

- Starting at age 5 all Hebrew boys went to the synagogue to go to Torah school
- By age 10 they all knew the Torah and the best students went on to study the rest of the OT. The rest returned home to work in the family business
- At about 17, if a boy wanted to go on and make a career out of religious studies, his next step was to find a rabbi he admired and apply to become one of his disciples
- When he found one, he would go and sit at his feet. That was his request to learn. The rabbi would examine him to see if he was worthy to be his disciple.
- The rabbis would choose the smartest, most talented to be their disciples
- The rabbis were picky because they were choosing someone who they believed would be just like them, know what they know and do what they did
- For several years these disciples would follow the rabbi, imitating him in every way. The goal of the disciple was to be like the rabbi
- In Matthew chapter 4 we see Jesus coming off his desert temptation and Matthew tells us that as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he catches a glimpse of Andrew and Peter fishing.
- Notice this. They were fishermen, which means they were not a disciple of a rabbi, which means they did not show promised at 10, nor 17, but they ended up in the family business.
- These men were ordinary men, with no super special intellect or skills.

- They were the B-team.
- These guys were not full of potential or power, but they were called by the Master Teacher to follow him, to learn from him and to be like him, to know the Father like he knew the Father, and to be filled with his power.
- There were no experts on Jesus' team.
- Why? Because his work in and through them would not come from their abilities, but from his power in them.

### **Jesus Chose Us, Not We Him**

*"Follow me," he told them.*

- This is subtle, but important. The disciples did not choose Jesus, he chose them.
- Jesus chose us in him, we did not choose him.
- The rabbi-disciple relationship began when the disciple picked out a rabbi and then sat at his feet and went through a series of tests to prove his worthiness.
- Jesus circumvented the process.
- Jesus went looking for them when they were not even looking for him!
- Jesus says in **John 15:16** to the disciples and to us, *"You did not choose me, but I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce fruit and that your fruit should remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you."*

### **Our Primary Calling is to be with Him**

*"Follow me," he told them.*

- The primary calling of the disciple is to be with the master. To go where he goes, to do what he does, say what he says, and remain with him.
- Jesus' primary calling for the disciples was not to go somewhere or to do something, but to be with him.
- So many of us get confused in this spiritual journey with Christ. We make up so many things we have to do or be when he simply calls us to be with him.

## **To Follow Him, We Have to Leave it All**

*“Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.”*

- The boat and their father symbolize the two most important things in their lives.
  - o Boat-our careers (the way we take care of ourselves)
  - o Father-our most significant relationships
- To follow Jesus, he has to take precedence over both.
- The call to be a disciple is a call for surrender. We literally surrender our lives to Jesus and are willing to give up whatever he calls us to give up.
- There are many people who consider themselves Christians who have never given up anything for Jesus, but there are no disciples who have not given up something to follow Jesus.
- Maybe the reason Christianity is so comfortable for so many of us is that we are not disciples of Jesus. We don't actually follow Jesus, so we don't actually have to give anything up.

## **He Commands Us to Spiritually Reproduce**

*“Follow me, he told them, “and I will make you fishers of men.”*

- Following Jesus means everything in your life is subject to him.
- Just as Jesus was a fisher of men, if we are a disciple, we too are called to be fishers of men.
- This call to reproduce ourselves is not only for a select few, but for all who call Jesus, “Lord and Savior.”
- What does being a disciple look like? A disciple bears fruit. And if we are not bearing fruit, we have reason to question our discipleship.