

FISHERS OF MEN

MT 4; MK 1

Matthew 4:18-22 (after the wilderness temptation)

17 From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

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.

Mark 1:16-20

14 Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

16 As He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. 17 And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." 18 Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. 19 Going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who were also in the boat mending the nets. 20 Immediately He called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went away to follow Him.

TO BE A FISHER OF MEN WE HAVE TO FOLLOW JESUS

What Does It Mean to Be Fishers of Men?

- Was Jesus was asking them to cast their nets out to catch people swimming in the water?
- Or was Jesus asking them to cast the gospel message out to people and try to catch men's hearts?

Fishing

- Fishing is unpredictable.
- There is no guarantee of reward.
- It requires patience and risk.
- In faith, the fishermen would throw their nets into the water hoping for a catch.
- Fish will not jump into the boat.
- What if there are no fish?
- But the risk is worth the reward.

In the same way, this is our model for evangelism.

- We take the story of Christ and the message of what He has done for us, and we (cast) speak it out into the world around us.
- Can we always see under the surface and know if the message is working?
- Do we sometimes share the gospel and see no response?
- We, by faith, share the Gospel and sometimes people will get saved, and some times they won't.
- The risk is worth the reward.

1 CORINTHIANS 3:5-7 = 5 What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. 7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.

- None of us possesses the power to convert another; yet we are called by God to share the Gospel. He is pleased to use us to bring others to faith.

- Is the reward of winning a heart for Jesus worth the risk and effort of getting out there and sharing? Absolutely?

ROMANS 10:13-14 = for "Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved." 14 How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?

"I know that I don't have regenerating power. But God, who saves by sovereign grace, is pleased to use my witness and your witness to give the eternal gift of saving life in Christ." – Tim Challies

WHY BE A FISHER OF MEN?

MATTHEW 28:19-20 = 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

HOW TO BE A FISHER OF MEN?

Follow Jesus

Imitate Jesus

MARK 4:33-34 = 33 With many such parables He was speaking the word to them [the crowd], so far as they were able to hear it; 34 and He did not speak to them without a parable; but He was explaining everything privately to His own disciples.

John 4:27 At this point His disciples came, and they were amazed that He had been speaking with a woman, yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why do You speak with her?" 28 So

the woman left her waterpot, and went into the city and *said to the men, 29 “Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?” 30 They went out of the city, and were coming to Him...Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest.

Follow Christ

Imitate Christ

1 CORINTHIANS 11:1 = Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

- Imitation goes beyond outward actions; it involves cultivating a deep, living relationship with Christ marked by obedience, submission, and love.
- Imitation includes emulating His love for God and others, His acts of service, and His humility, even to the point of self-sacrifice.
- Imitation requires aligning our motivations with Christ's, ensuring our actions stem from love and a desire to glorify God, rather than from selfish ambition or pride.
- Imitating Christ involves putting His teachings into practice, including loving our enemies, serving others, and striving for humility and compassion.

EPHESIANS 5:1-2

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma...15 Therefore be careful how you walk...

TO BE FISHERS OF MEN

- FOLLOW CHRIST

- IMITATE CHRIST

- INVITE OTHERS TO FOLLOW CHRIST

“We share our faith because it is our purpose and in doing so share the hope we’ve found in Jesus Christ with others”

- o Share our faith
- o Look for opportunities
- o Pray for opportunities – divine appointments
- o Pray for boldness
- o List names of people you need to talk to

The commitment of the Disciples

LUKE 5 -8 But when Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Jesus’ feet, saying, “Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!” 9 For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken;10 and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men.” 11 When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

“Follow me and I will make you fishers of men...”

GO FISH