

## Sermon Series: Spurred on to Holiness (and Power) by Immersing Ourselves into the Life of Christ Through the Eyes of the Apostles – A Harmony of All Four Gospels

Sermon Title: When Hungry Souls Find a Satisfying Banquet of Truth

January 28, 2018

Theme verse: Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. (ESV)

Introduction: What would you leave your job for, or take a three year unpaid sabbatical?

Exegesis

Principles of New Testament Evangelism

1. Although we should share the Gospel with everyone when we can, we should be looking for those whom the Holy Spirit has convinced there is much, much more to life than what this world has to offer.
  - Andrew, and presumably John, had left their nets at the height of fishing season. Why? (fall – winter when the fish seek the warmer waters of the shore where there are warm springs. In summer the fish go out into deeper cooler waters that make it difficult for the smaller boats using nets to catch fish.)<sup>1</sup>
    - Were they there to get richer or richer? Hardly, not the way John was dressed.
    - Were they there to usher in the Kingdom of God? No, John's main message was one of repentance.
    - Were they simply curious? No, if so they would have satisfied their curiosity and gone home, but they chose to stay and become disciples of John. This requires a commitment in NT times. You sit at your rabbi's feet for long periods of time.
    - I posit that they left their nets at the height of fishing season because the Holy Spirit was making them aware that life was more than selling fish and getting rich off of selling fish. It is apparent that Zebedee (John's father was wealthy) since he had hired servants and multiple boats, and access to the High Priest's home. See Mark 1:19-20. And Mark 15:40-41.
    - Is the Holy Spirit still at work doing that today? He hasn't gone on vacation has he? So we must assume that not everybody in Douglas County is not on the Holy Spirit's radar and that He is indeed working on some. There might be a 10/1 ratio but it is still 10%.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/pdf/anvil/10-1\\_009.pdf](https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/pdf/anvil/10-1_009.pdf)

2. Having found them (those whom the Holy Spirit has convinced there is more to life than what the world has to offer) we need to 1) make them aware of their failure to obey God's laws and are hence guilty, and 2) show them the only person who can take away their sins.
  - Andrew and John left the Baptist to follow Jesus because He is the Lamb of God.
3. These Holy Spirit prompted seekers must verbalize what it is they truly do want so that their initial fuzzy longings become concrete truths in order for the gospel to take root. Jesus asked "what are you seeking?" Tough question.
  - First question I ask when people tell me their sad stories asking for money or food. I ask, "What do you want from me?" and then "What do you want out of life?"
4. For all pastors and elders: NT Evangelism is about making disciples, not collecting decisions or attracting attenders.
5. Finally, once the gospel has been fully explained, the cost of discipleship needs to be weighed before any decision is asked for. "Follow me" is 1) a command, 2) it is unlimited in scope of either duration, direction, or demands.