

First Circuit

Call of Four Fishermen

Draught of Fishes

Matthew 4:18-22

Luke 5:1-11

Call of Four Fishermen

Text:

Matthew 4:18-22,

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 others 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.

Introduction:

I. The twelve (12) apostles were:

- A. Simon Peter (Cephas), son of Jonah, Jonas, John, brother of Andrew.
- B. Andrew, son of Jonah, Jonas, John, brother of Simon Peter.
- C. James, son of Zebedee, brother of John.
- D. John, son of Zebedee, brother of James.
- E. Matthew, Levi, tax collector/publican.

F. Philip.

G. James the son of Alphaeus, James the younger.

H. Bartholomew (Nathaniel).

I. Thomas, Didymus (twin).

J. Thadaeus, Judas, the brother/son of James.

K. Simon the Cananaean, the Zealot.

L. Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus, and was replaced by Matthias. Acts 1:26, **“And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.”**

Commentary:

Matthew 4:18, 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.

I. Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee when he saw Peter and Andrew, two brothers who were commercial fishermen.

A. Jesus called busy people to be his followers.

B. He called them while they were at work, on the job.

C. Peter, Andrew, James and John were partners in the fishing business.

1. Luke 5:10, And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.

2. Luke 5:7, So they signaled to their partners in the other boat for them to come and help them. And they came and filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink.

D. They evidently were doing well, they had at least two (2) employees.

1. Mark 1:20, Immediately He called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went away to follow Him.

E. These men were solid “blue collar” workers.

F. These four (4) men had actually been disciples of Jesus for about a year, but this was evidently a call to full-time Christian service.

Matthew 4:19, And He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

I. Jesus called these brothers to be fishers of men.

II. There are definite similarities between literal fishing and soul winning. In both activities, the following traits are needed:

A. Skill.

- B. Co-operation.
- C. Various methods are used.
- D. Results cannot be predicted.
- E. Attractive bait is required.

Matthew 4:20, Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

I. The disciples straightway without delay left their nets and followed Jesus.

II. In obeying Jesus we must also respond to his commands fully, willingly and without delay.

Matthew 4:21, 22, Going on from there He saw two others brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

I. Jesus going on from the site of the call of Andrew and Peter, came upon James and John, sons of Zebedee, at work with their father mending their nets.

A. These brothers also immediately left their nets and followed Jesus.

B. James was the first apostle to suffer martyrdom.

1. Acts 12:1, 2, Now about that time Herod the king laid hands on some who belonged to the church in order to

mistreat them. And he had James the brother of John put to death with a sword.

C. John was the last of the apostles to die.

II. Peter, James, and John were the closest of the apostles to Jesus.

A. Jairus' daughter. **Mark 5:37, And He allowed no one to accompany Him, except Peter and James and John the brother of James.**

B. Transfiguration. **Matthew 17:1, Six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves.**

C. Garden of Gethsemene. **Matthew 26:37, And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and sore distressed.**

III. Some believe Zebedee married Salome, sister of Mary, the mother of Jesus.

A. If this is correct Jesus, James, and John were first cousins.

B. **Matthew 27:56, Among them was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.**

C. **John 19:25, Therefore the soldiers did these things. But standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.**

Reiteration:

I. Jesus saw Simon Peter and Andrew, his brother, casting their net into the Sea of Galilee. By trade they were fishermen.

A. Jesus called busy men into his service. He called these men while they were at work.

B. Jesus called Matthew while he sat at the receipt of custom, while at work.

1. Matthew 9:9, As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

C. James and John, two other brothers, were also in the fishing business evidently with Peter and Andrew, busy men.

1. Luke 5:7, So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

2. Mark 1:20, Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

D. These four men, Peter, Andrew, James, and John, had been disciples of Jesus for at least a year.

1. John 1:35-51, The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" When the two disciples

heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What to you want?” They said, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying” “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.” So they went and saw where he was staying; and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour. Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. “You are Simon son of John, You will be called Cephas” (which, when translated, is Peter). The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.” Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked. “Come and see,” said Philip. When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false.” “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.” Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel.” Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree? You shall see greater things than that.” He then added, “I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

2. During that year they had continued their fishing business.

3. Now they were called to forsake all and follow Jesus full time. **Matthew 19:27, Peter answered him, “We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?”**

E. Jesus called these fishermen to be fishers of men.

II. Without delay they left their nets and followed Jesus.

A. James and John left their father and their job of mending their nets and followed Jesus.

B. Wonder what became of Zebedee? How did he feel about his sons leaving him to follow Jesus?

C. Zebedee is never said to have been a disciple.

III. Some commentators believe Zebedee was married to Salome, the sister of Mary, the mother of Jesus.

A. If this is true, Jesus, James, and John were first cousins.

B. **Matthew 27:56, Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and mother of Zebedee’s sons.**

C. **John 19:25, Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.**

IV. These four disciples formed the inner circle of Jesus' disciples.

A. Matthew 17:1, After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

B. Matthew 26:37, He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled.

C. Mark 5:37, He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James.

Draught of Fishes

Text:

Luke 5:1-11,

- 1. One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God,**
- 2. He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets.**
- 3. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.**
- 4. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."**
- 5. Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.**
- 6. When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.**

- 7. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.**
- 8. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me Lord; I am a sinful man!"**
- 9. For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken,**
- 10. And so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men."**
- 11. So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.**

Commentary:

I. Jesus preached to an eager multitude by the Sea of Galilee (Lake of Gennesaret).

A. Jesus saw two boats, one belonging to Peter and Andrew and one belonging to James, John and Zebedee.

B. These fishermen had not had success on their now concluding fishing trip. They were simply getting ready to store their equipment so it would be ready for their next fishing trip.

II. Jesus entered Simon Peter's boat and requested that Simon "put out a little from the shore."

A. Jesus used the boat as a pulpit and from the boat he taught the multitudes.

B. When Jesus had finished teaching He told Simon Peter to, "... put out into the deep ..." for another fishing trip.

C. Peter objected but complied with the instruction to, “ ... cast out into the deep.”

1. This was not a good time to fish as the men were tired and “ ... **the fish were not biting.**”

2. We are also to “ . . . **launch out into the deep.**”

D. So many fish were caught that the nets began to break.

E. Simon and his crew signaled their “partners,” James and John, in the other boat to come and help them.

F. Both boats were filled with fish to the point that both boats were in danger of sinking.

G. Peter recognized that Jesus was a great prophet by the huge catch of fish, and fell down at Jesus’ feet saying, “**Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.**”

1. Grudging obedience attended by a critical complaining attitude is not acceptable to God.

2. Peter here repents and confesses his earlier reluctant compliance with Jesus’ directive, “**Cast out into the deep.**”

3. Peter worshiped Jesus. Jesus accepted his worship.

H. These four men were from that time forward to be “**fishers of men.**” They saw something greater than catching fish.

1. They were aware of Jesus’ miraculous power.

2. They were conscious of sin.

3. They had a vision of a higher and nobler calling; that is, fishing for the souls of men.

IV. When they came to the shore, they left all and followed Jesus.

A. Not many have “left all” to follow Jesus.

B. Those who have left all to follow Jesus have eternal glory awaiting them.

Jesus Calls Us

Jesus calls us: o’er the tumult
Of our life’s wild restless sea,
Day by day His sweet voice soundeth,
Saying “Christian, follow me.”

Jesus calls us from the worship
Of the vain world’s golden store:
From each idol that would keep us,
Saying, “Christian love me more.”

In our joys and in our sorrows,
Days of toil, and hours of ease,
Still He calls, in cares and pleasures,
“Christian, love me more than these.”

Jesus calls us: by Thy mercies,
Savior, make us hear Thy call,
Give our hearts to Thine obedience,
Serve and love Thee best of all.

First Circuit

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Questions

1. As _____ was walking by the _____ of _____, He saw two _____, _____ who was called _____, and _____ casting a net into the sea, for they were _____.

2. Jesus said to them, “_____, and I will make you _____ of _____.”

3. _____ they left their _____ and _____ Him.

4. Jesus saw two other _____, _____ the son of _____, and _____ in the boat with _____ their _____, mending their _____; and he called them.

5. _____ they left their _____ and their _____, and _____ Him.

6. The names of the twelve apostles were:

_____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____.

7. The first four selected were : _____, _____, _____, and _____.

8. These four were _____ people! Jesus calls _____ people to be his disciples.

9. Jesus called them and us to be _____ of _____.

10. Five similarities between actual fishing and fishing for men are:

11. _____ was the first _____ to suffer _____.

12. _____, _____ and _____ were closest to Jesus and were present with Jesus at the resurrection of _____'s _____, the _____ and in the _____ of _____.

13. _____, _____, _____ and _____ evidently had been disciples of Jesus for about a year. He now called them to fulltime service.

14. One day Jesus was standing by the _____ of _____, another name for which is the _____ of _____.

15. People were _____ around him _____ to the _____ of _____.

16. At the water's edge were _____ left there by _____ who were _____ their _____.

17. He got into one of the _____, the one that _____ to _____, and asked him to put out a little from the _____. Jesus _____ and taught the people from the _____.

18. When Jesus had finished speaking he told _____ to move the boat out into _____ and to let down the _____ for a _____.

19. What opportunities do we have to “launch out into the deep” and what blessings await us? _____

20. Simon said, “_____, we’ve worked hard all _____ and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.” What lesson do we learn from this statement from Peter? _____

21. They caught so many fish that their _____ began to _____ . They signaled their _____ in the other boat who came and filled both boats with fish so that they began to _____ .

22. All the fishermen were astonished by this huge drought of fish. The three fishermen named here were _____ , _____ and _____ .

23. Peter exclaimed, “Go away from me _____ ; _____ _____ !”

24. They pulled their _____ up on _____ , left _____ and _____ .

25. _____ attended by a _____ is not acceptable to God.