

A DEVOTIONAL SERIES ON THE GOSPEL ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

JESUS CALLS TO DISCIPLESHIP

Mark 1:17 "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men."

Simon (Peter) and Andrew were brothers and partners in a fishing business. Jesus, with two words redirected their life journey. Why would anyone in their right mind leave their lucrative business, one that most likely they had inherited from their ancestors, and follow a complete stranger?

This story has been repeated again and again. Jesus called fishermen, a tax collector, a physician and a persecutor of Christians to follow Him. From those whom He called it appears He was not very discerning. He did not necessarily call the brightest, the most winsome, the strongest. What we do know is it was Jesus that did the calling, the choosing, the selecting. "At once," Mark writes, "They (Peter and Andrew) left their nets and followed Jesus." (Mark 1:18)

Rarely today do we refer to ourselves who are believers in Jesus as His disciples. The most common title we use is Christian. Do you know that the title Christian is found in the Bible only three times? On the other hand, those who are believers in Jesus in the Bible are called disciples over 280 times. Whichever title you prefer, what do these names mean? They mean that we, like Peter and Andrew, are not passive in our relationship with Jesus. When Jesus chose the original disciples He said to them, "I will make you fishers of men." (Matthew 4:19)

Jesus did not call His Disciples to sit in church pews pulling up splinters with their posterior anatomy. He called them to become "Fishers of men." He sent them out two by two to spread the good news to whoever would listen. (Mark 6:7) He equipped them with the Gospel. He knew full well it was not by their prowess, determination, or their oratory skills, but by the Holy Spirit working through the Gospel they proclaimed that people would come to faith and also follow Jesus.

Jesus chose you at your baptism to become His follower. He gave you His Spirit who brought you to faith in Him and who now resides in you. Through His Spirit and the Gospel, you know you are His witnesses (Acts 1:8) to those with whom you come in contact. You are no longer your own. He bought you with the price of His shed blood. In this sense you have dropped your nets and now follow Jesus

wherever He leads you. God is blessing you as you follow Jesus, for Jesus is leading you through this life-to-life everlasting.

Prayer: Jesus, lead me where you would have me go and do what you would have me do. In Your holy name. Amen.

Jesus, Savior, pilot me, Over life's tempestuous sea;
Unknown waves before me roll, Hiding rock and treach'rous shoal.
Chart and compass come from Thee. Jesus, Savior pilot me.

As a mother stills her child, Thou can'st hush the ocean wild;
Boist'rous waves obey Thy will When Thou say'st to them, "Be Still!"
Wondrous Sov'reign of the sea, Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

When at last I near the shore And the fearful breakers roar
Twixt me and the peaceful rest, The, while leaning on Thy breast,
May I hear Thee say to me, "Fear not, I will pilot thee."
(LSB 715)