

Jesus Begins Ministry by Calling Disciples to Go Fishing [Matthew 4: 17-22]

We looked at the first call of the disciples last week in John Chapter 01

- Our text in Matthew is the second calling of Andrew and Peter and John and James
- Verse 17 is one of the most important transitions in Scripture: *From that time Jesus began to preach*
- The Gospel is an urgent message

Much has happened as Jesus prepares for his preaching ministry and exodus to the cross in Jerusalem

This call is like the first call to Andrew and John - simple and direct: *Follow Me*

The point Matthew is making – no one becomes a follower of Jesus by personal initiative

- Jesus is no Hebrew Rabbi where students chose him
- Jesus calls us – we dare not diminish the overwhelming divine authority of his call
- When Jesus says *Follow Me* to the first apostles – he is confiscating man for himself

The call of God is performative – the fishermen follow Jesus

Jesus calls four fishermen and promises to make them fishers of men

- Net fishing from the shoreline or dropping a *net* into the sea is the imagery
- The occupation of the Galilean fisherman is labor-intensive involving strain, long hours, hazards, storms, persistence, and often few results.

There is an implied antonym in the text

- Fish are caught, killed, cooked, and eaten
- People are caught so as to remove them from the eternal flames of hell and to give them new life

All too often the focus of evangelism is on results and numbers rather than the process of sharing our joy in Christ

We cannot help but witness

- By what we do or what we do not do [Corinth]
- No matter where we are – HYMN 826
- Even when not speaking our actions count

Jesus still calls fishers of men just like he did at the Sea of Galilee

- The law convicts us of our sin
- The Gospel gives grace and forgiveness
- That is Good News you can share – you can share the love of Jesus
- Go fishing!