



Matthew 4:18-22 - <sup>18</sup> As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."<sup>20</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup> Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, <sup>22</sup> and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him." (NIV)

It is kind of mind-blowing that Jesus called FOUR (4) hardworking commercial fishermen to be His first disciples. Is there a reason why Jesus would call so many fishermen to become His disciples and later on send out to do ministries for the kingdom of God? Yes, of course, God chose the foolish in human standards to shame the wise of this world. It is highly possible that God used the traits of fishermen for the advantage of the kingdom of God. I believe that these are also traits that God is looking for among His disciples because He wants a radical disciple. Radical disciples are radical fisher of men.

#### **FISHERMEN ARE BUSY PEOPLE**

Fishermen do not sit around do nothing. While the rest of the world sleeps, the fishermen are already awake at around 1:00 in the morning to go to work. Fishermen wake up early but they don't go back to sleep after the catch. When they're done fishing, they have to sort their catch in preparation to selling them. Then, they have to hang their nets in order to remove the dirt and wash them. When it's clean, they have to fold them in preparation for tomorrow. Fishermen have to keep on doing these things.

These men Jesus called were industrious workers. They are hardworking. Notice how Peter and Andrew were busy at work when Christ called them. This is an essential element for serving Christ. Radical disciples are hardworking. If we're lazy, we can't become a radical disciple of Jesus. We need to stress the importance of energy and willingness to exert effort, and to work hard. When Christ calls a person, that person is working, not sitting. God chooses the dynamic and diligent. Everyone is called by God but not everyone accepts the calling. All of us are called to be disciples of Jesus to do His work. Why do you think it is a curse if we're negligent on doing God's work? Here are some of the reasons:

*It is a COMMAND* of Jesus. If it is God's command and we did not do it, it is called DISOBEDIENCE.

*It is our ROLE* as body of Christ. Ephesians 4:16 - "From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work (NIV)." Every part of the body has a role.

*It is our CONCERN* because the workers are few. Matthew 9:37-38 - <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup> Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field (NIV)."<sup>39</sup> In reality, there are a lot of Christians who received Jesus as their Lord and Savior. But...there are only a few who are willing to work for the Lord. Others would say that it is the pastors' responsibility since they're getting paid for it. Since they're not getting paid in the church, so they don't need to work for God. If you have that mentality, you're so wrong. Please don't forget that God paid you 2000 years ago and it is with the blood of Jesus. Whatever you're planning to do for God or doing for God is already paid for a long time ago. Say amen.

Therefore, we see that fishermen do not sit around doing nothing. They are busy people

#### **FISHERMEN ARE PATIENT PEOPLE**

A person who is restless and impatient will never become a good fisherman. Waiting for the right results isn't always easy, is it? We want results and we want them NOW. We don't want to have to wait for anything.

Think of Esau and Jacob back there in the 25th chapter of Genesis. This guy would not even WAIT for someone to prepare him a meal or fix one for himself. He came in hungry from a day in the fields, more than likely a day of hunting. All he could think of was his stomach when he said, <sup>30</sup> Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I'm famished!...<sup>32</sup> Look, I am about to die (Genesis 25:30,32 NIV)."

Are we any different? Don't we too think that we have to have it now? Patience also applies to discipleship. Radical disciples of Jesus should be patient especially in the area of bringing people to Christ. Isaiah 40:31 - "But those who WAIT on the Lord. Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint (NKJV)." What kind of patience does it take to win a person to Christ? Don't we often expect immediate results? Do you have the patience to WAIT as you minister to some people who are confused, disturbed, unhappy, hopeless? This is why the most effective way of sharing Jesus is through friendship evangelism. Friendship takes time. It doesn't hurry, it doesn't rush. It takes time. I'll bet most of us here know at least one person who is lost without Christ. Do they see the love of God demonstrated in your life? Do they see you as a caring, patient person who is more interested in who they are than getting a reward from heaven? You see, to be a true Fisherman, a "fisher of men," you must have patience to sit, wait, watch.

#### **FISHERMEN ARE PEOPLE OF FAITH**

Fishermen are usually religious people. They pray first before they leave the land because they know they're facing danger every time they leave the shore and go the deep part of the sea. Fishermen generally cannot see the fish and are not sure that their nets are being filled. They do not know when they may get that big fish that they've been looking for.

A true Fisherman goes to his favorite stream with an attitude of catching the largest fish, the greatest catch, or sometimes just the right amount for a great, evening meal. A true Fisherman does not go fishing with a terrible "can't-do" or "what's the use" attitude. He goes expecting. He goes with anticipation. Some of you might be discouraged with your personal life so you don't want anything to do with sharing Jesus. This is what I believe: Take care of God's business and He'll take care of your business. Let faith arise. Stretch your faith just like the great heroes of faith in Hebrews chapter 11:

By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did (v. 4a)  
By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death (v. 5a)  
By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family (v. 7a)  
By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going (v. 8)  
And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise (v. 11)  
By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future (v. 20)  
By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict (v. 23)  
By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned (v. 29)  
By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days (v. 30)

Do you find yourself in any of these heroes of faith? These giants are just like Radical Fishermen of God.

#### **FISHERMEN ARE PEOPLE WITH COURAGE AND PERSEVERANCE**

The Greek fishermen used to pray to their gods because they believe: "My boat is so small and the sea is so large. "When I speak of people with courage, I don't mean that they don't experience fear at all. Courageous people are people with fear and yet they overcome in order to achieve their goal. These are the challenges that we go through that require courage and/or perseverance:

Most of the time, we're afraid to talk to others about Jesus. Are we afraid of somebody calling us "a religious fanatic" or something else? Are we afraid of rejection? Please be reminded, it is not you they are rejecting. They are rejecting Jesus!

According to Campus Crusade for Christ, determining SUCCESS in EVANGELISM is NOT BASED on RESULT but INITIATIVE. The fact that you initiate in sharing Jesus to others, that is already considered as SUCCESS. It takes courage to initiate in sharing. It also takes perseverance to continue in following up people to whom you shared Jesus. Sometimes, we experience severe discouragement in life. The question is: Are we going to continue even going gets rough? There are times that we get disappointed with our church. Are we going to continue to support our Church even when others slip away? Are we going to remain faithful when the world pressures us to give in to their principles instead of God's higher standards? Are we going to be politically correct or morally and spiritually right? Are we going to throw in the towel when others may disagree or even criticize? Over the years, I learned that we can't please everybody. Are we going to persevere to what God wants us to do? Are we going to be courageous and stand firm on our faith in God?



1. Why do you think the Lord used the context of fishing in evangelism?
2. What did you learn about the fishermen in terms of sharing the good news?
- 3.)How important is winning souls for Christ to you?