

The First Coming of King Jesus Part 14_ The Disciples of the King

January 15, 2023

Matthew 4:18-22

Two main aspects of Jesus ministry: to preach the Gospel and to develop leaders. There are three uses of the term "disciple." It is used 200x and means "a learner." One use is to refer to the 12 men He called. The second is anyone with faith in Christ. And thirdly, anyone who was temporarily interested in Jesus (Jn. 6:66).

This passage in Matt. 4:18-22 repeats in 4 parts for both groups:

- 1) **Appearing of Jesus:** V18, Jesus walking by the sea. V21, Jesus appearing to James & John.
- 2) **Work of the Disciples:** V18, they were fisherman on the Sea of Galilee. V21, fisherman working with their father Zebedee. The Sea of Galilee is the place of many major events in Jesus' ministry: Matt. 4 (calling disciples), 8 (calmed the sea), Matt. 8 (heals Centurion's servant), Matt. 13 (teaching), Mk. 6 (feeding the 5,000), Mk. 5 (casting out demons), Jn. 21 (restoring Peter).
- 3) **Call of Disciples:** V19, being fishers of men to be kingdom citizens. V20, called with the authority of a king. V21, Jesus called them. Matt. 13:47, the dragnet catches all types of fish.
- 4) **Obedience of Disciples:** V20 and 22, immediately they responded. Jesus' calling causes tension between family members, Matt. 8:21 (fathers), 10:21 (brothers), 10:34-35 (daughters with mothers), 10:36 (own household). James and John left their father in the boat which was unheard of in that time. Family who are saved vs. those still serving the devil. Matt. 8:19-20, it is a costly calling.

What is the reason Peter and Andrew followed after Jesus? Peter and Andrew were disciples of John the Baptist, and had already met Jesus, John 1:35-42. The language of following Christ was evident in 1 Jn. 1:35-42: V37, 38, 39 (remained), 40 (found), and 41 (found).

Three reasons the disciples desired to follow Jesus:

- 1) **Christ is All-Loving:** V35, this is the day after John the Baptist introduced Jesus as the Lamb of God. V35, this day John presents Jesus to the two disciples again and they follow Jesus. They desired to be with Christ where He was, V38. This was a foreordained meeting that God the Father and Son orchestrated, John 17:4.
- 2) **Christ is All-Giving:** V39, Jesus invited them to, "Come and see." 1) Jesus invited to the come eat, it was about 4pm and time for dinner. 2) To stay for the evening. It was close to evening time and too late from them to travel home for the night. 3) To come and fellowship with Jesus. Jesus would have provided a means to wash their feet, fragrant oil to freshen them up, and would have fed them and sat around a table eating and talking for the evening. Jesus found them and called them. God initiates salvation to all.
- 3) **Christ is All-Powerful:** This happens in one day because John is clear that the next day He called Philip and Nathanael. Andrew (the apostle John hears as well, V40) finds Simon, and Jesus changes His name to Peter, or "stone." A "rock" or "stone," was an attribute that God used to refer to Himself, Ps. 40:2, 61:2, 62:2, 89:26. God is also a rock of offense to unbelievers, Is. 8:14, Matt. 13:5, Ps. 118:22. Jesus knew Peter's future he would take the Gospel to the world. His epistle commanding believers to be holy in persecution that they were facing. Peter would be martyred after proclaiming Christ in Britain and Western Europe. Andrew would be martyred after proclaiming Christ in Eastern Europe and Greece.

God calls men to fish for other men. Shepherds are the basic way God builds His church.

This account in Matt. 4:18-22 is the first call by Jesus. Luke 5:1-11 is the second call to these men, this time to full time ministry. Luke 5:11, they forsook all and followed Christ.

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Many examples of men be called while they are doing their daily work: Gideon, Peter, Andrew, James, John, and Matthew. God qualifies them according to 1 Tim 3. and Titus 1. As in Luke 5:4, Jesus demonstrated to His disciples, that God fills the net and brings in the fish.

>>Volunteer Shepherds have the following duties: 1) To be a teacher (1 Tim. 3:2). 2) An Overseer giving spiritual oversight and a call to godliness, Col. 1:28. 3) An example to the people, 1 Pet. 5:3 and be known and seen by the people. 4) An advocate in prayer for the people, Acts 6:4. There is no higher purpose in life than to represent Christ.

Further Discussion and Application

Everyone who comes to Christ is called by Him, regenerated by the Holy Spirit, and comes to know God through His Word. How is that process demonstrated in the accounts of the disciples?

What value did the disciples place upon knowing Jesus as shown in their response to Jesus when Jesus asked, "What do you seek?" Jn. 1:38. What were Peter and Andrew seeking? What did they find in Christ?

How can we purposeful in our homes to proclaim and live the Gospel? How can we proclaim and share the Gospel at our jobs? How does mentoring others help in the proclamation of the Gospel? Lives that are focused upon Christ are better representatives of Christ. What can we put off in our lives that we might put on Christ and adorn Him?

What example can we be to others in our lives that would encourage them to be more diligent in their sanctification as they mature in Christ? How do need to prioritize our lives to see that come about?

The answers to being a more faithful follower of Christ are fairly easy. It means deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Christ. When we do put the ways of the world behind us, what effect does that have upon us? What do we better understand about the Lord after doing so?