



Exploring God's Love through the Bible

The Message of Jesus Pt 2: Following and Fishing

Nov 20, 2016

Text: Mark 1:16-20

Additional Context: Luke 5:1-11

From the Expositor's Bible:

“Few things are more instructive to consider than the slow, deliberate, yet firm steps by which Christ advanced to the revelation of God in flesh. Thirty years of silence, forty days of seclusion after heaven had proclaimed Him, leisurely intercourse with Andrew and John, Peter and Nathanael, and then a brief ministry in a subject nation, and chiefly in a despised province. It is not the action of a fanatic. It exactly fulfills His own description of the kingdom which He proclaimed, which was to exhibit first the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear. And it is a lesson to all time, that the boldest expectations possible to faith do not justify feverish haste and excited longings for immediate prominence or immediate success. ***The husbandman who has long patience with the seed is not therefore hopeless of the harvest.***

“Passing by the sea of Galilee, Jesus finds two fishermen at their toil, and bids them follow Him. Both are men of decided and earnest character; one is to become the spokesman and leader of the Apostolic band, and the little which is recorded of the other indicates the same temperament, somewhat less developed. Our Lord now calls upon them to take a ***decided step***. But here again we find traces of the same deliberate progression, the same absence of haste, as in His early preaching. He does not, as unthinking readers fancy, come upon two utter strangers, fascinate and arrest them in a moment, and sweep their lives into the vortex of His own. Andrew had already heard the Baptist proclaim the Lamb of God, had followed Jesus home, and had introduced his brother, to whom Jesus then gave the new name Cephas. Their faith had since been confirmed by miracles. ***The demands of our Lord may be trying, but they are never unreasonable, and the faith He claims is not a blind credulity.***

“Nor does He, even now, finally and entirely call them away from their occupation. Some time is still to elapse, and a sign, especially impressive to fishermen, the miraculous draught of fishes, is to burn into their minds a profound sense of their unworthiness, before the vocation now promised shall arrive. Then He will say, From henceforth ye shall catch men: ***now He says, I will prepare you for that future, I will make you to become fishers of men.*** So ungrounded is the suspicion of any confusion between the stories of the three steps by which they rose to their Apostleship.

“A little further on, He finds the two sons of Zebedee, and calls them also. John had almost certainly been the companion of Andrew when he followed Jesus home, and his brother had become the sharer of his hopes. And if there were any hesitation, ***the example of their comrades helped them to decide***-- so soon, so inevitably does each disciple begin to be a fisher of other men-- and leaving their father, as we are gracefully told, not desolate, but with servants, they also follow Jesus.

“Thus He asks, from each group, ***the sacrifice involved in following Him at an inconvenient time.*** The first are casting their nets and eager in their quest. The others are mending their nets, perhaps after some large draught had broken them. So Levi was sitting at the receipt of toll. ***Not one of the Twelve is recorded to have been called when idle.*** (*Emphasis mine*)

FOR ENCOURAGEMENT:

1. The harvest isn't hopeless!
2. Christ's cross should inspire our faith!
3. Christ doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called!
4. Our unity and fellowship is important; it inspires us to serve and preach the Gospel!
5. Obeying the Great Commission is rarely convenient; we must sacrifice!
6. Christ often calls those who work; let us not be idle!

FOLLOWING...

First thought for our Text: We must imitate Him in [Fishing](#)

- *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. (Lk 19:10)*
- *But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. (Matt 9:12-13)*
- *Mat 9:35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. Mat 9:36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Mat 9:37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few; Mat 9:38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.*

And we must imitate Him in [Sacrifice](#)

- *Mar 8:31 And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. Mar 8:32 And he spake that saying openly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him. Mar 8:33 But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men. Mar 8:34 **And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.** Mar 8:35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. Mar 8:36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Mar 8:37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Mar 8:38 **Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.***
- *Mat 10:34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. Mat 10:35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. Mat 10:36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. Mat 10:37 **He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Mat 10:38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. Mat 10:39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.***

FISHING...

MacDonald writes on this verse: "Fishing is an art, and so is soul-winning.

1. It requires patience. Often there are lonely hours of waiting.
2. It requires skill in the use of bait, lures or nets.
3. It requires discernment and common sense in going where the fish are running.
4. It requires persistence. A good fisherman is not easily discouraged.
5. It requires quietness. The best policy is to avoid disturbances and to keep self in the background.

Friends, Jesus **commands His disciples, all of His disciples, to "catch men." He both models and says this in different ways. We are to follow His example and obey His commands:**

- *Mat 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Mat 28:19 **Go** ye therefore, and teach all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Mat 28:20 **Teaching** them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*
- *Mar 16:14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. Mar 16:15 And he said unto them, **Go** ye into all the world, and **preach** the gospel to every creature. Mar 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*
- *Luk 24:46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: Luk 24:47 And that repentance and remission of sins **should be preached** in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. Luk 24:48 And ye are witnesses of these things. Luk 24:49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.*
- *Joh 20:19 Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. Joh 20:20 And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. Joh 20:21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, **even so send I you**. Joh 20:22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:*

EXHORTATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

Jesus spent His ministry **fishing**. He spent it praying, teaching and healing. His heart for the lost and broken should change us, motivate us, and bring us to **action**. From His discussion with the rich, young ruler (Mk 10:17-22), to his rescue of the woman caught in adultery (John 8:1-11), to His prayer for those who murdered Him (Lk 23:34), our Lord loved lost people deeply.

His passionate admonishment to Peter should forever settle the issue of His love people:

Joh 21:15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." Joh 21:16 He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He

said to him, "Tend my sheep." Joh 21:17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Joh 21:18 Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." Joh 21:19 (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) **And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me."**

FINAL THOUGHTS:

What are you willing to do to follow Him?

Are you willing to be made into a fisher of men?

Are you willing to forsake your nets?

Are you willing to fall down on your knees like Peter and cry out, "I am a sinful man O Lord!" that He might use you unto His glory?

May we all humble ourselves for His use. May Christ use this church to catch men and teach them "to observe all things whatsoever [He has] commanded. (Matt 28:20)

And may He be with us "alway, even unto the end of the world."

Amen.