

Mark 1:16-28 - The Gospel Servants

Scriptures:

¹⁶And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He

Notes:

Sea of Galilee is the lowest body of freshwater on earth at 704 feet below sea level. It is also known as Lake Tiberias and Kinneret. It is thirteen miles long and 141 feet deep.

¹⁷He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a

The type of fish they most likely caught is a Galilean (or Mango) Tilapia which grow to about sixteen inches long and can weigh 3.5 pounds. Though they also may have caught smaller carp and sardines.

net into the sea; for they were fishermen.

Scriptures:

John 12:25-26 - He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

17 Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and

G3694 - to follow

(behavior) v. — to

behave in

accordance or in

agreement with."

Notes:

Simon and Andrew had met Jesus previously while John the Baptist was at the Jordan River.

No explanation is given as to why Jesus chose them. No reason is given for Jesus choosing any of the disciples. His reason has nothing to do with them, and everything to do with Christ. In a similar way there is no reason for God to choose to save any of us. His reason for doing it is in Him and in Him alone. To understand why He chose you, you must understand why He chooses anyone at all.

I will make you become fishers of men."

G4160 – [Verb,

Future, Active, first

person]"to make

(change) v. — to give

certain properties to

something."

G1096 -

[John 15:1-4]

The fruit Jesus is talking about is the spiritual fruit of a life in communion with God. It is the things of our life that glorify God, bless others, and grow faith. It is those things done through faith and obedience by the Holy Spirit to Christ and the Word of God. Jesus says that can't happen if we are not connected to Him.

[John 15:5]

You can't do it apart from Christ. This was hard for me to accept. For most of the forty years before Christ saved me, I believed there was nothing I couldn't do all by myself. Even after I got saved, I believed I could be a superior Christian, all by myself. But then I experienced verse 6.

[John 5:6]

I was saved so there wasn't any chance I was going to be cast out, but there were parts of my life and faith that were withering. God wanted so much more for me and from me.

[John 15:7-8]

heaven except those things you do as you follow Jesus.

After telling Simon and Andrew to follow Him, Jesus makes a promise if they do — I will make you fishers of men. Jesus is calling them out of one life and vocation into a spiritual calling. To be fishers of men is to draw men out of the darkness of this wicked world into the light of God's kingdom.

What strikes me about that phrase is the part where Jesus says He will 'make them' into fishers of men. He was going to teach them many things and be an example to them, but they were not going to be able to become what Jesus was calling them to become. Jesus had to make them into fishers of men.

One of the most liberating truths I have ever learned, accepted, and believed is that I can't be anything Jesus doesn't make me into. Too many believers think it is their responsibility to be a good Christian, or a good spouse, or a good parent, or in my case, a good pastor. I can tell you from personal experience, it doesn't work. Turn to John 15.

'Follow Me' was a call to abandon everything that was important in their lives. They were at the Jordan River when John called people to repent for the kingdom of God was at hand. They heard the declaration that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. They had a heart for God. But still, what Jesus called them to was a life that was nothing like the life they imagined for themselves.

This thought terrifies some people. They may sense Jesus calling them to follow Him, but they are afraid He may ask them to abandon something in this life that they hold close to their heart. That is a dangerous attitude to have. John 12:25-26

Jesus' point in telling us to hate our life in this world is that our desire and love for the life we will spend with Him in eternity is so great that it makes our attitude toward this life seem like hate. Our life in this world matters but it is just a shadow of our life with Jesus in heaven. Nothing you do in this life will follow you to

Scriptures:

18 They immediately left their nets and

Notes:

followed Him.

G190 – go/come

behind,

accompany as a

follower, be a

disciple.

19When He had gone a little farther from

there, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and

John his brother, who also were in the boat

mending their nets.

Scriptures:

²⁰And immediately ~~He~~ [†]called them, and they

Notes:

G2564 – to
summon.

left their father Zebedee in the boat with the

hired servants, and ~~went~~ [†]after Him.

G565 – go away,
depart.

Scriptures:

²¹Then they went into Capernaum, and

Notes:

immediately on the Sabbath ~~He~~ [†]entered the

~~†~~synagogue and ~~taught~~ [†].

G1321 – provide
instruction.

²²And ~~they~~ were astonished at His teaching,

G1605 – “to be utterly amazed v. — to be or become astounded to such a degree as to nearly lose one’s mental composure.”

for He taught them as one having authority,

G1849 – “ruling authority n. — authority over a domain or sphere of influence; often pertaining to the political or religious sphere.”

and not as the scribes.

Scriptures:

Luke 4:33-34 - 33 Now in the synagogue there was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon. And he cried out with a loud voice, 34 saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!"

23 Now there was a man in their synagogue

with an unclean spirit. And he cried out,

G169 – evil spirit, demonic.

Notes:

Scriptures:

Psalm 16:10 - For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

24 saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do

with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come

Notes:

'Did you come to destroy us?' – They knew Jesus had the power and authority to do it. This is an implicit declaration of His deity.

'I know who You are...' The demons knew Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah, the very Son of God, God Incarnate. How did they know Jesus? They had been in heaven with Him for millennia, until they were kicked out of heaven during Satan's rebellion.

to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy

G622 – ruin.

G1492 – "to know (experientially) v. — to know or have knowledge about (someone or something); normally as acquired through observation or the senses."

One of God!"

Scriptures:

25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet,

G2008 – "to
reprove v. — to
admonish or warn
forcefully (as
expressing strong
disapproval)."

Notes:

and come out of him!"

Scriptures:

26 And when the unclean spirit had convulsed

Notes:

him and cried out with a loud voice, he came

out of him.

27 Then ~~they~~ were all amazed, so that they

G2284 –
astounded.

questioned among themselves, saying, “What

is this? What new doctrine is this? For with

G1322 – content
of what is taught.

authority He commands even the unclean

spirits, and they obey Him.”

G5219 -

²⁸And immediately ^{at} His fame spread

throughout all the region around Galilee.

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