

Text:
Mark 1:16-20

THE CALL OF
PETER AND ANDREW

Here we find Jesus walking by the Sea of Galilee and as he walks He sees Simon and Andrew casting their nets into the Sea. He walks over to them and turning to them He says, "Come ye after Me and I will make you fishers of men." And as we read on it says "And straightway they forsook their nets and followed him.

I can just picture this trio continuing their walk and as they do they come to a little fishing vessel beside a wharf where James and John are sitting with their father Zebedee. I can picture James and John also sitting in the hot sun working over their nets and as they hear the sound of some one approaching they put their hands up to shade their eyes and here they see Jesus, Peter and Andrew. Then Jesus calls out to them also, "Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Once again the scripture it says, "And straightway they left their nets and followed Him".

As we know, Peter and John were already disciples of Christ, but here in this passage of scripture we learn of their call to service.

I'm reminded of a few years ago, 4 years ago to be exact, when we awoke one Sunday morning to hear over the radio "The Japs have bombed Pearl Harbor". Yes, a war had begun and Uncle Sam had wakened up to the fact that he needed an army of soldiers and so all the boys of 18 years and over were called to service to fight for their rights. To fight and die that we here at home might have freedom.

I remember reading stories of young people who had just been married a short time and who were probably just buying a home and starting a family and one day the young husband would come home to find a letter from his draft board asking him to report to duty. This was this young mans call to service. Truly our boys made a great sacrifice. All of them had to say good bye to Mother and Dad, Sister and Brother. They had to leave all and follow Uncle Sam.

You all remember the story of the Rich young ruler who came to Jesus and asked Him, "What must I do to be saved?" and Jesus told him to read what it said in the law. The Rich young ruler said he had done all these things from his childhood. Jesus then told him to give all that he had to the poor, but this was too much for the young fellow and he felt he could not let go of his worldly possessions. He was like so many people today. He preferred darkness to light. He preferred the things of this world to heavenly things and oh how foolish he was, for in Ecclesiastes it says nothing under the sun satisfies but heavenly things do satisfy.

And now as we refer back to the scripture we see that when James and John were called they had to forsake their nets and not only their nets but the scripture says and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, and went after Him.

Young People, Jesus is passing by tonight and He sees us sitting folding our hands, "mending our nets" as it were and He's saying to us "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men.

What does it mean to follow Him?? It means to leave all else behind, all our earthly affections and follow Christ. It means to deny ourself, to sacrifice. In Romans 12:1 we read, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And in answering the call let us not grumble about having to let go of this thing or that but let us do as Peter and Andrew, James and John did, let us straightway forsake our own way and follow Him.

We who are called of God are chosen people and we are to be a separate people also in all things. We need to abstain from the things that would hinder us from being at our best for Jesus. When it comes to questionable things...well..I know how young people are because I'm a young person myself and I know how so many times we think, "Well, I don't see where going to a show every now and then will hurt anyone, or what if we do go to a dance, just once in a while won't hurt anyone. Besides what is there for a young person to do for entertainment? Listen, I don't care how seldom you do a thing, one thing will lead to another and it's a down hill race. Anyway, could you picture Jesus sitting in a theater, watching one mans' wife kissing another womans husband? Could you picture Jesus laughing at a drunkard staggering down the street? Could you imagine Jesus holding another mans wife in His loving arms leading her across a dance hall to the beat of wild music? Or could you see Him sitting over a card game with a cigarette in one hand and a glass of beer or whiskey in another? Not my Jesus...No Sir! My Lord is the perfect one, He is without spot or blemish.

I'll tell you how I see Jesus. I see Him hanging on a cross in agony and blood, who fixed His loving eyes on me as near His cross I stood.....A Gentle but condemning power, Was stored within that eye. And ne'er can I forget that hour, From henceforth till I die.....Another look He gave, which said: "I freely all forgive: My blood is for a ransom shed, I die that thou may'st live."

Yes, I see Jesus looking on the imoral pictures that are being flashed before the eyes of our youth today. Scientis's try to tell us that the human is becoming more intelligent and that the world is getting better all the time but that is not so. Every minute of every day this old world is degenerating and becoming more corrupt and more vile than at any time in the history of the universe and why? Because we have allowed these filthy pictures to be shown to the youth of the world. I can imagine how Christ's heart must ache. No it wasn't the nails or the thorns that caused His heart break that day but it was the sins of this world. No, young person I can't see Jesus getting a kick out of watching the foolish acts of a drunkard all I can see are His eyes full of tears and all I can feel is the compassion and love that he offers them. If I were ever to meet my Lord at a dance hall in the arms of another woman I'm afraid I would resort to another Lord, how about you?

We are to be separate and young person if you are not willing to be separate for God you are not worthy of Him. He says so Himself in Matthew 10:37-38 but we can't do this in ourselves. It is only through constant prayer and comunion with Jesus. It is only as we let the Light Christ Jesus shine on us and permeate our very beings that we can reflect this great light.

Then young person, after we have dropped our nets and followed Him, straightway, then we can claim the promise that Jesus gave when He said "and I will make you fishers of men". Praise His Holy Name.

But let us notice He said "I" will make you fishers of men. We can't do it in ourselves but it is only through Jesus, but that's the best way to do something. For the things that we do amount to nothing, but truly it's a blessing to know that we can do all things through Christ who strengthenth us.

And if we are faithful in following Him we can look forward with great anticipation to the day when the trumpet shall sound and He shall come in all His glory to gather His elect from the four winds and take us into his loving arms and say "Well done thou good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over few things, I will make thee ~~RULER~~ over many, enter thou in to the joy of thy Lord.

A-MEN

See - Benny had "fald" thro test - lights were rejected - found reflectors were Corrupted & dirty & changed reflectors & lights were gone.