

**Gospel of Matthew “Fishing Christians”**  
**Matthew 4:18-22**  
**February 27, 2022**

Matthew 4:18-22. (ESV)

**18** While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen.

**19** And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. **20** Immediately they left their nets and followed him. **21** And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. **22** Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

How do our lives respond to the call of Jesus?

Luke 5:1-7 (ESV)

On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, **2** and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. **3** Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. **4** And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” **5** And Simon answered, “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.” **6** And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. **7** They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

Jesus is presenting Himself as the true Israel and as the new Adam.

Matthew 1:16 (ESV)

**16** and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

Genesis 3:15 (NIV)

**15** And I will put enmity  
between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring[a] and hers;  
he will crush your head,  
and you will strike his heel.”

Genesis 1:26 (ESV)

**26** Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea...

How does Simon’s response illustrate Christian discipleship?

Simon's response comes through the preaching and teaching of the Word.

The Word and the work of Jesus begin to come together.

Jesus isn't just asking for our struggles but for our strengths as well.

Luke 5:8 (ESV)

8 But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

Our response to Jesus comes with an awareness of our sin.

Matthew 4:18-19 (ESV)

19 And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

The call to Christ is a "letting go."

*"The cost to participate in the mission of God is nothing less than everything we are and everything we have."*

- The Barbarian Way

The call to Christ is first a call to be with Him.

The call to Christ is to join Jesus in what He is doing.

### **Grow Group Discussion Questions**

- What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- Peter's following of Jesus was a mix of hearing God's word taught and the power of it changing lives. How did the preaching of God's word and the evidences of God's ability to change lives influence your faith?
- Jesus has Peter cornered in the boat so to speak, without a lot of options. Did you ever feel that way with your decision to follow Christ?
- In the boat, Peter expressed both submission to Jesus and an awareness of how wrecked his life was. Why are those "following" moments mixed with awe and an awareness of our inadequacy?
- Discuss the three things present in Jesus' charge to Peter in Matthew 4:18-19 and how they have each been expressed in your own discipleship.
- The call to Christ is a letting things go. What have you let go or left behind to follow Jesus?
- The call to Christ is a call to Jesus himself. How has Christianity become a relationship with Jesus rather a list of things to do or a better morality?
- The call to Jesus is the taking of a new vocation. How has your following Jesus influenced your sense of purpose and work in the world?
- With your Grow Group, discuss how you can apply this passage to your lives this week.