

January 29, 2006

"Drop Your Net"

The most important thing about us is our view of God.

Key Verse: Matthew 4:20 (NIV)

At once they left their nets and followed him.

Bible Passage: Matthew 4:12-22 (NIV)

When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he returned to Galilee. Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, along the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."

From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Lesson Thought

There is an old maxim that says "Keep the main thing the main thing." A.W. Tozer puts it this way, "The most important thing about us is our view of God." In this passage, we see two fishermen going about their daily routine - fishing, mending nets, repairing their boats, selling their day's catch. They probably woke up that morning looking ahead to what the day would bring. Instead they met Jesus! They allowed their meeting with Jesus to rock their world. Their meeting with Him moved them from the routine to the divine. They found being with Jesus to be so important that it became the main thing in their lives. Their view of God became so important to them that they literally dropped what they were doing to be with Jesus. Our days are filled with so many diversions. Trying to "find time" for our

devotions or quiet time with God seems next to impossible. Do we want a life of diversion or a life of devotion? The choice is ours, and ours alone. We must come to the crossroads and choose the way we want to proceed. When Peter and Andrew saw the importance of following Jesus, they dropped their nets. Today, did you drop your net to spend time with the Lord, or did you allow your net to entangle you? Ignatius of Antioch said "A Christian is not his own master since all of his time belongs to God." We need to ask ourselves: if all of our time belongs to God, why is it so hard to find time for Him?

Application: what does this lesson say to us today?

1) How have I made time with Jesus a daily priority in my life?

2) Think about how you spent your time today. Did you spend time with God? If not, what was the one thing that kept you from spending time with Him? How can you make more time to spend with the Lord in an average day?

Family Activities: putting the lesson into action

Give each family member several pieces of paper and a pencil or pen. Each person should write down things that they think will keep them from following Jesus this week. At the end of the week, take out the papers and read them. How well did each person do in preventing the things they wrote down from entangling them? Was each person able to "drop the net" and follow Jesus this week? Discuss how hard or easy it was to "drop the net."

Suggestions for further study

Luke 9:23-26

Luke 9:57-62

Mark 10:17-27

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