

A FISHING STORY

Mt. 4: 17-23

Introduction: Discuss fishing...

-Discuss the text (young men in their 20's and 30's) leaving their fishing to follow Jesus.

I. WHAT DREW THESE FISHERMEN TO JESUS?

1. What was it about Jesus that caused these fishermen to follow Jesus immediately?

-lousy fishing - need to get away from a bossy father - a good excuse to get away from fishing - had heard about Jesus - his invitation sounded exciting - his presence was so magnetic they couldn't help themselves - needed a radical change - needed some time off, so a vacation.

2. What did their families and friends think about their just walking away?

-their father (and the business) and their mother....(and wife)
-their neighbors

3. What did they think about Jesus?

II. FOLLOWING JESUS ALWAYS MEANS LEAVING SOMETHING OR SOMEONE BEHIND

1. Sometimes it is Family - sometimes it is Friends - Sometimes it is one's business - sometimes it is one's home - etc..

2. Nobody can predict what their decision to follow Jesus will lead to. **Would these fishermen have left their fishing to follow Jesus IF they could have known what lay ahead?**

III. IS JESUS CALLING YOU?

1. "Can't be calling me for I am already a follower" say some of you.

-What about a change of job or vocation? or What about a change of location?

-What about a change of churches? or What about a change in what you are doing in His church? or What about stopping and resting for awhile? or What about making amends with someone who has been wronged? or What about stopping regretting your sins and accept your forgiveness?

2. Is Jesus calling you to believe in Him and follow Him in Baptism and Church membership? Or calling you to repentance and to get back into His fellowship?
3. Sometimes His call is loud as a siren....sometimes it is more like a whisper...sometimes His call to a single person is heard by many.

IV. THERE IS RISK INVOLVED IN FOLLOWING JESUS

1. One cannot know where the call will lead or what will be involved..so FAITH and TRUST in Jesus is necessary.
2. God also takes a risk....on the follower.

CONCLUSION

1. Are YOU a follower of Jesus? Why? What caused you to begin to follow Jesus?
2. Have you not found out that Jesus has ALWAYS provided that which was needed just at the right time?
3. Has the risk and the giving up of some things and some people been worth it?
4. If you are not a follower of Jesus, He invites you, He calls you to become His follower today. Will you not leave everything and follow Jesus wherever He leads?