

“To Follow Is To Fish”

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ “The time has come,” he said. “**The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!**” ¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰ Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him. **Mark 1:14-20 (NIV)**

The Israelites were looking for an earthly kingdom. So when Jesus says “repent” they know that it’s a time for them to get ready so they don’t miss what God is about to do. That was the pattern of the Old Testament – when God was ready to do a wonderful thing – the people repented. ☺

Reflection: When you came to Jesus what did you expect Him to do in your life?

We come to Jesus in hopes that He will make us a better ... husband/wife, father/mother, son/daughter ... that He’ll make us more disciplined, organized, efficient, financially sound, wise, etc.

Many people today follow Jesus out of the “What’s In It For Me?” principle. This principle is focused on them instead of being focused on what they can do for Christ. As soon as He “disappoints” them – when He doesn’t come through for them in the way they want – they get upset and quit following (i.e. Judas). Selfishness, by its very nature, cares about nothing and no one but self. A selfish person will sell out his or her friends if it will help the person get what he or she wants. And a selfish person will always find good reasons not to fish.

“To follow is to fish.”

Note that they left immediately and followed Him? Why? Luke’s Gospel gives us a little more insight. Don’t think they followed Jesus without Him doing something great in their lives first ...

¹ One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God, ² he saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. ⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.” ⁵ Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.” ⁶ When they had done so, **they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.** ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. ⁸ When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” ⁹ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰ and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; **from now on you will catch men.**” ¹¹ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him. **Luke 5:1-11 (NIV)**

Notice that Jesus says that fishing is a process. He's going to "make us" fishermen & fisherwomen. He's going to use YOUR life (circumstances, ups, downs, trials, victories, weaknesses, strengths, sin, goodness, successes, failures, etc.) to infiltrate the lives of others. It is not just the message ... it's also the *messenger*. You are positioned to be used in someone's life. Be ready!!

Assignment: Write a letter to the person who helped you find Christ. The purpose of this letter is to remind you that at one time someone was fishing and you were once a fish.