

A DISCIPLE'S HEART – WEEK 2 WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?



A DISCIPLE'S HEART

I am not a fisher-person. But Jesus was in a manner of speaking. He called fishermen to His ministry. And He called them and us to be fisher-people, not fishing for fish but fishing for people, to bring them along in His boat so-to-speak.

His first disciples that He called were Simon, Andrew, James and John in Mark. In John, Andrew and another disciple follow Jesus, and then a few more join the group. We can read about Jesus “catching” these disciples in two different gospels.

Read Mark 1:16-20 and John 1:35-51.

In the Mark passage, Jesus calls Andrew and Simon and then calls James and John. They were making a living as fishermen. In this story, Jesus finds them, He calls them, and they drop what they are doing and follow Jesus. James and John even left their father to follow Jesus.

In the John passage, we hear the story differently. Andrew and another disciple were with John the Baptist, maybe disciples of John. Jesus comes by, John calls Jesus the “Lamb of God” and they follow Jesus. They must have been looking for the Messiah because a little while after this, Andrew goes to find his brother Simon and says that they had found the Messiah. Simon follows. Philip joins up and then goes and gets Nathanael. Nathanael is reluctant at first but follows Jesus as well.

Here is the point we should get from these two different versions of Jesus choosing His early followers. In Mark, it appears that Jesus searches out those He wants to follow Him. And they follow. In John, with Andrew and the other, they are already in seeking mode. They are following John the Baptist but once they hear that the Messiah has been found, they start following Jesus. And then we hear about Nathanael and his preconceived notions about where the Messiah should and should not come from but is eventually convinced to follow Jesus.

So in these two short passages, we have people who we might label as exploring or searching or beginning or maybe even growing and maturing. Throw in Matthew, the hated tax collector that started following Jesus and you have people that encounter Jesus at different stages of their lives. But they all start following and they all (I’m sure) start inviting others to follow as well.

Such is the case with us. Sometimes, Jesus finds us. Sometimes, we are looking and find Him (although He has already given us the grace to find Him). Sometimes it might be unexpected; sometimes it might be expected. Sometimes it might be easy to encounter Jesus. Sometimes, it might take a lot of arduous searching to find Jesus.

No matter our own experience, we are expected to “leave our own nets” and make a commitment to follow Him. We leave our past and go the direction that He leads. Like Andrew and the other disciple from the John passage, we might not have the answers, but we know He does.

A DISCIPLE’S HEART – WEEK 2
WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Think about the following:

- Where do you find yourself in the Scripture readings? Which character are you most like?
 - What are the things you have to leave behind to follow Jesus?
 - What are the “nets” you still cling to?
 - How are you fishing for people? How do you invite people to experience the love of God in Christ?
-

Read Psalm 84 and meditate on the words.

Does your soul long for God in the way that the psalmist describes?

Do you hear ideas of Christian Perfection in this psalm?

If you could read the last page of the story of your life, how would you want it to read?

What might “perfection of love” look like in your life and relationships?