

DATE: June 7, 2009

TEXT: John 1:35-51

TITLE: "John V: The Calling of Jesus"



In our study of John, we now move to the direct ministry of Jesus. Jesus begins his ministry by the calling of disciples. In our text this morning we see 5 disciples. The first four are obvious... the 5th one is not. The first four are Andrew, Simon Peter, Phillip and Nathaniel. But there is probably a fifth one mentioned in Verse 35 and 37. It says **The next day John was there again with two of his disciples... when the two disciples heard him say this they followed Jesus.**" It is believed by many experts that the second disciple was John himself. He avoids naming himself in this Gospel. I want to look at this call and the Apostle John

The actual call of Andrew, Peter, James and John is found in *Mark 1:16-20*. It reads....

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." 18At once they left their nets and followed him.

19When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. 20Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

It is likely that these two families were very, very religious. Andrew and John, apparently were followers of John the Baptist.... but that was only in their spare time. James, John, Peter,

and Andrew were fishermen. They probably all worked for Zebedee. He owned at least two boats and James and John worked one boat and Simon and Andrew worked the other boat. They were not rich... but they probably made a decent living. As a matter of fact... The Zebedee family was probably just getting to the point of making a pretty decent income. The fathers, Zebedee and Jonah probably had dreams of the sons inheriting the business. Simon and Andrew probably had dreams of someday owning their own boat. And then came Jesus. It is clear that the two sets of brothers never returned to full time fishing. They became life-long disciples of Christ.

The point of our text this morning is this... when Jesus call his disciples he call them to leave all and follow Him. This was true with the 12 disciples 2000 years ago... and this is still true today to you and me. I want us to see lesson on the call of God... not just 2000 years ago but today in our lives.

Lesson # 1 When God call his disciples he questions their motives. *John 1:38 states...*

**Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"
They said, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?"**

Jesus turns and asks "What do you want?" This is the fundamental question each and

every person must ask themselves. What do you want in life? What is your goal in life? Again and again, when Jesus called people to follow Him he would challenge them with this question.

Remember the story of the “Rich Young ruler?” His challenge to him was to “go and sell all that you have and come and follow me.” He refused.

Two other men were interested in following Jesus... In *Luke 9* we hear Jesus’ words

57As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." 58Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

59He said to another man, "Follow me." But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." 60Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God"

The first man was challenged with this question: **do you seek comfort or do you seek to follow me?** The second man was challenged with this question: **Do you seek family or do you desire to follow me?** Money, comfort, family... or Jesus Christ.

Let me say this.... scripture is clear... money is not condemned. Discomfort is not praised.

And Family is critically important to every Christian. Jesus is not condemning any of these... he simply asking this question... what is your goal life? He is encountering us in the same way he encountered Peter after the resurrection almost in this exact same location. Peter had gone back

to fishing... Jesus asked 3 times.... **“Do you love me more than these?”**

Jesus asks us this exact same question: Do you love me more than these? What would he point to in your life? Money and Success? Comfort and Security? Family? Do you love me more than these? Have you forced Jesus to fit in your lifestyle and your comfort zone.... or have you left all and followed Him?

Lesson # 2 When Jesus calls his disciples... he sees and magnifies their potential. *John 1:42*

42And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

In Hebrew it is Cephas... in Greek it is Peter.... in English it is Rock. “Rocky” is the name given to Simon by Jesus. Again, try to picture this scene. Here is Jesus, possibly on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Possibly sitting on a log on the beach... teaching a group of men. When suddenly Andrew comes running on the beach dragging his brother Simon with him. I can hear the introductions... “Jesus this is my brother Simon.... Simon this is Jesus... he’s the Messiah.” Jesus looks at Simon... still in his work clothes... smelling of fish... fish scales under his fingernails.... and he says..... “I will call you Peter... for upon this rock I will build my church.”

What? Not highly educated.... rather impetuous, not a gifted speaker, not a great organizer, didn't even own his own boat. But Jesus saw the potential in this man. Jesus knew he would be a man of great faith.

I read this story this week.... Michelangelo was in Florence chipping away at this block of marble. He was asked by a passerby what he was doing. He replied “**I am releasing an angel locked inside this marble.**”

This is what God does for each of his disciples who allow him to chip away at us.

Let me be honest with you... the greatest example of this is standing right before you. In Junior High School and Senior High school I was painfully shy. My parents forced me to join Boy Scouts to get me out of the house. I remember in 7th grade I shared a locker with another boy. Around February my parents asked me the name of the other boy... I had no clue. They made me find out the name of the boy I shared a locker with. I still didn't talk to him.... I grabbed a book and opened it to find out his name. My family never went to church... but they pushed me into this youth group just to meet people. I met people.... but I also met Jesus Christ. He radically

changed my life. I am still not a naturally outgoing people. I still have to force myself to meet new people. I hate public speaking. I'm O.K. here with my family... but put me in a new situation and I will be scared to death. My point is this.... I do not kid myself and think I am a great speaker or even a great pastor.... but I do know this... all that I am... is by the power of God. I have learned again and again and again... it is not a matter of me doing more... it is a matter of me surrendering to the power of God in my life more and more. When I fail... it because I try to hard to be something I am not.

God takes each and every one of us and he molds us into his servant. God gives us the ability to serve... we have to be willing to let go and allow God to lead us.

This section ends with a reference to Jacob's ladder. Jesus says this

51He then added, "I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

This is a direct reference to the vision seen by Jacob at Bethel 1500 years before. It is a promise to the disciples of Jesus. It is a promise to you and to me. We shall heaven open up and the angels of God coming to our Lord Jesus upon his return to earth. The questions are these....

Are you willing to surrender all and follow Jesus? Are you willing to be a servant to Jesus and allow the power of the Holy Spirit to fill you and use you? Are you a disciple of Christ?

AMEN