

## GONE FISHING

Mark 1:14-20

### I. What Is the Difference Between a PROBLEM and an OPPORTUNITY?

**A. John the Baptist's imprisonment presented a problem which Jesus turned into an opportunity.** "Now after that *John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee*, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God," (MARK 1:14)

**B. Herod had a problem with people preaching morality.** "For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and *put him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife.*" (MATTHEW 14:3)

**C. Jesus had a mission to preach, not one to go to prison with John.** "And came and *preached peace* to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh." (EPHESIANS 2:17)

**D. Jesus announced the arrival of the Messianic kingdom** [when preaching from the lectionary in Capernaum]. "And saying, The time is fulfilled, and *the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*" (MARK 1:15)

**E. Jesus was preaching from the Scriptures that He was the one for whom God's people had waited.** "The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me; *because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings* unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are bound*; *To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD*, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, *to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness*; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified." (ISAIAH 61:1-3)

### II. As He Preached, Jesus Called the Disciples

**A. As Jesus went about His business, He found fishermen, not scholars or politicians, about their business capturing fish.** "Now *as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew* his brother casting a net [*amphiblestron*] into the sea: for *they were fishers.*" (MARK 1:16) An *amphiblestron* was a dragnet, circular and bell-shaped, which was thrown upon the water, so that it spread out and caught, by sinking, whatever was below it. Scripture mentions two other kinds of nets.

**B. God selected industrious working men rather than scholars to establish the church.** "For it is written, *I will destroy the wisdom of the wise*, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where *is* the wise? *where is the scribe?* where *is* the disputer of this world? *hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.*" (1 CORINTHIANS 1:19-21) [LXX phrasing of Isaiah 24:14]

**C. Jesus called the fishermen to a specific task.** "And Jesus said unto them, *Come* ye after me, and *I will make you to become fishers of men.*" (MARK 1:17)

**D. Simon and Andrew seized the opportunity.** "And *straightway* they forsook their nets, and *followed him.*" (MARK 1:18)

**E. Though the world may not be able to understand, leaving everything immediately to invest in the cause of Christ is the best of all possible decisions.** “And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, ***There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel’s, But he shall receive an hundredfold*** now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life. ***But many that are first shall be last; and the last first.***” (MARK 10:29-31)

### **III. Jesus Did Not Stop with Two Disciples**

**A. Jesus called busy people to work for Him.** “And when he had gone a little further thence, ***he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending their nets.***” (MARK 1:19)

**B. Remember that Moses was a work with sheep when God called him.** “Now ***Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law***, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, *even to Horeb*. And the angel of the ***LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire*** out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, ***the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.***” (EXODUS 3:1-2)

**C. The God of grace isn’t interested in doing things the world expects them to be done.** “For ye see your calling, brethren, how that ***not many wise men*** after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, ***are called***: But ***God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise***; and ***God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty***; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: ***That no flesh should glory in his presence.***” (1 CORINTHIANS 1:26-29)

**D. Hearing, the sons of Zebedee acted and so should all who hear the gospel call.** “And ***straightway he called them***: and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, ***and went after him.***” (MARK 1:20). James was the first Apostle to die, beheaded about AD 44 (Acts 12:1,2), and John, the last Apostle to die, died at Ephesus about AD 100.

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