

*From Pastor's Desk...*

### FISHERS-TO-FISHERS OF MEN

Andrew and Peter, James and John were fishers by trade. They followed their ancestors even prior to the response to Jesus's call. Jesus asked them to follow Him so that He could change them and their trade from fishers to fishers of men.

John Mark is the author of the Gospel of Mark. Can you imagine of someone else other than John Mark in the NT who endeavored on a journey without fully considering the cost of discipleship? He abandoned Barnabas and Paul, presumably when they needed him most in the early part of their first missionary journey. He was immediate to respond to the task but not serious of the commitment to the task. The Gospel of Mark places a higher emphasis on a long lasting commitment to the Lord than an immediate step for action.

Christian discipleship is a lifestyle. It is not a one-time event but a process. Discipleship involves both transformation and multiplication. The transformation of life takes place in a positive response to the invitation of Jesus. Multiplication comes as a result of lifestyle evangelism. We are not effective disciples unless we are making disciples. Making disciples is a non-negotiable task of a true disciple of Christ.

Jesus of Nazareth always comes asking disciples to follow him, not to merely "accept him", not to merely "believe in Him", not to merely "worship Him" but to *follow Him*. One either follows Christ or one does not...We either make him Lord of all Lords, or we deny Him as Lord of any." Lee Camp, *Mere Discipleship*.

God bless you.

**Rev. K. M. Varughese**

(Senior Pastor, IPC Hebron, Los Angeles)

### BORN AGAIN TO FISH

Danny George Kuruvilla, Youth Director

Jesus got on to Simon's boat and told him, "Okay Simon, now put down the nets into the deep". Simon who had worked all night said to Jesus, "But we have been out fishing all night and have caught none. But because you say so, I will do it." They caught more fish than what they could handle. Then Jesus said to Simon, "**follow me and I will make you fishers of men**".

The calling of the first disciples was a strong command, which followed a life changing promise. So, what does it mean to follow Jesus? It means letting go of everything else and fixing your eyes on Him, desiring what He desires. In Matthew 8:22 Jesus tells another disciple, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead." When Jesus says follow me, He means for you to be an active participant in His ministry here on earth giving up your selfish priorities and desires for His. He expects us to fully embrace His purposes for our lives when we truly decide to follow Him.

What does it mean to be fishers of men? When Jesus used this phrase, he was talking to men whose profession was fishing so they may understand more clearly the message that Jesus had for His disciples, which was evangelism. Evangelism plays a major role in a Christian's life. In fact, to follow Jesus is to do what he did, evangelize. The great commission (Matthew 28:19) which was the last command Jesus gave during His time on earth links directly to the phrase 'fishers of men'. Jesus commanded to **follow** and to be **fishers of men**. Where do we fall in as a church in fulfilling the command of our savior?

### ARE WE "FISHERS OF MEN" YET?

Sunil Thomas, Sunday School Director

Jesus Christ in Mathew 4:19 referred a metaphorical terminology for evangelism: "fishers of men." In Greek, it is "*halieis anthropon*", which has a broader meaning of fishers of humanity. A true Christian is accountable to fulfill two basic tasks; firstly to follow him and secondly to be fishers of men. The ultimate purpose of His calling is not just following Him, but also to grow as fishers of men. God has imparted on us His great commission to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28: 18-20).

Just as we need tools to be fishermen, we need tools to be fishers of men. Leading a prayerful life, erudition of the word of God, walk of faith, being spirit-filled and donning armor of God are all vital tools essential for this noble calling.

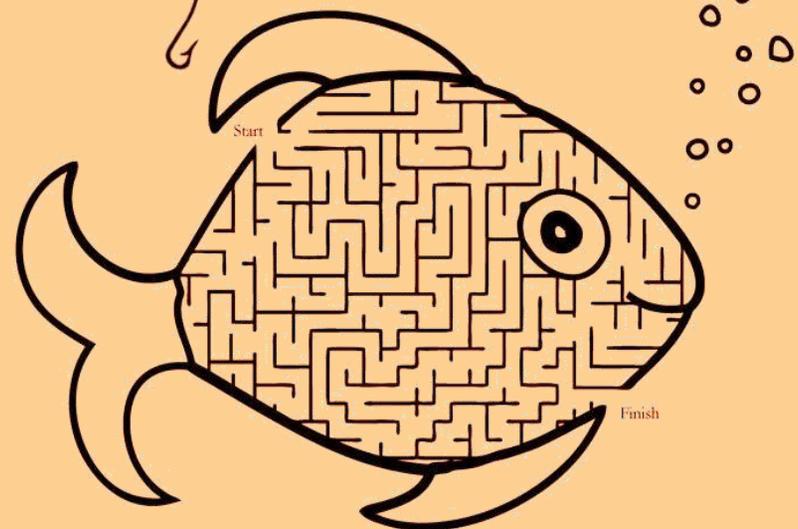
God placed us in a particular place, society, country, church or profession, not by chance, but with clear a purpose. God's ministry may be carried out in various arenas. It could be as a Sunday school teacher, choir member, youth minister, pastoral services, direct evangelism, being a biblical teacher, helping with church activities etc. Like a fisherman, are we utilizing our opportunities? Are we just being satisfied with a three hour Sunday service and enjoying the "American dream?"

Diligence in an honest calling is pleasing to Christ, and it is no hindrance to a holy life. As referred in Zechariah 8:9, let our hands be strong in the judgment day.

### FISHING KIDS' CORNER!

Julia Robin David, Sunday School Teacher

# FISHERS of MEN



And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." **Mark 1:17**