

From Pastor's Desk...

### Come and follow: Jesus Makes you Fishers of men

Jesus Christ was walking beside the Sea of Galilee and found two brothers named Peter and Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. It was then John the Baptist who proclaimed the message of repentance and the Kingdom of heaven had been put in prison, Jesus Christ entered the scene with a definite anointing for a holistic mission: preaching, teaching, healing, casting out demons, and doing good.

- The gracious invitation of Jesus;** Come, follow me (Mt.4: 19). Jesus initiated a mission in relational perspective. Though, it had been the custom to choose a master for learning and following, here Jesus in His spiritual authority demanded others to be with Him for further journey. Peter and Andrew heard the call and responded immediately leaving their nets and demonstrated the true commitment in devotion. Following Christ involves imitation of His character that reflects a self-denial to become a disciple of Christ.
- The glorious promise of Jesus;** I will make you fishers of men (4:19). They were called in a unique way to follow Jesus with the privilege and responsibility as soul winners for His kingdom. The simple question is to be raised here, how were they become fishermen in life? It was through watching their Fathers over a long period of time, being with them and helping them on the boats. They were shown all that involved in the work of a fisherman. As fishing is an art, so is soul winning. It requires patience, skill, discernment, persistence and quietness. We become fishers of men by following Christ. The more like Him we are, the more successful we will be in winning others to Christ.

Mr. Kimball, a Sunday School teacher in 1858 led a Boston shoe clerk to give his life to Christ. The clerk D L Moody became an evangelist. He awakened evangelistic zeal in the heart of F B Meyer in 1879. Meyer became Pastor and preached on an American campus brought to Christ a student named Wilbur Chapman. He engaged in Y M C A work employed a former basketball player Billy Sunday to do evangelistic work. The list goes on in history as fishers of men for Christ. Yes, it is true with us too. Let us be obedient to the higher call and be soul winners for His kingdom.

God bless you.

In His Glorious Ministry,

Rev. K. P. Mathew

(Senior Pastor, IPC Hebron, Los Angeles)

### Let us go Fishing! We are Fishers of men

Joicey Johnson, Sunday School Teacher

"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. 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, and I will make you fishers of men.' At once they left their nets and followed him" Mark 1: 16-18

When Jesus found Simon and Andrew, they were not telling someone else how to cast the net, but they themselves were doing the work. They didn't have any problem getting their hands dirty to catch the fish. Jesus chose these fishermen to carry out his vision of sharing the gospel. Though, we think sharing the gospel is the job of the church, pastors, or missionaries, Jesus found ordinary individuals to do extraordinary things.

**Qualities:** To be a good fisher man we have to work hard, be more patient and have courage. It can be very frustrating to work hard for hours without even catching a fish. There will be days that you will catch nothing at all. This doesn't make you a bad fisherman. The good fishermen learn from their experience. Fishing requires much patience. Waiting for a fish to take the bait can take more time than we expect. Good fisherman will not complain about the waiting time to catch the fish. They will not get discouraged when nothing seems to happen. They will always be ready to try again. We must understand the value of one lost soul that can be led to Christ, no matter how long or how hard we have to fish to catch him or her. We must have the courage to preach the gospel and make disciples of all men.

**Our Calling:** Wherever we are Jesus wants us to be fishers of men. We should have good relationship with Jesus and guidance from the Holy Spirit to understand the needs of those around us, so that we can share the gospel message to those needs. How many times did we miss the opportunity to share God's love because we did not follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit? Realize our calling and be confident of what God is going to do through us. Keep believing, keep trying and continue looking for open doors to spread the gospel. Having a love for what we are doing make us far superior than others. So, let us go fishing together.

M	I	W	E	R	D	N	A	P	M	GALILEE	CAPERNAUM	ZEBULON
S	U	L	E	D	E	B	E	Z	E	NAPHTALI	JORDAN	ISAIAH
E	J	A	M	E	S	T	N	E	U	SIMON	PETER	ANDREW
E	A	E	N	I	E	H		B	A	JAMES	ZEBEDEE	JOHN
D	E	E	A	R	O	J	H	U	N			
E	M	L	R	J	E	N	A	L	R			
B	S	I	M	O	N	P	I	U	E			
E	I	L	A	T	H	P	A	N	P			
Z	N	A	D	R	O	J	S	C	A			
N	U	G	U	B	E	Z	I	N	C			

