

Introduction:

- Mt 4:18-22 Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.
- Today marks day 5 of our 21 day fast. Our focus on this fast is for souls.
 - Prayer targets: (See Wednesday night 240103 Message)
 - Pray for the lost to be saved.
 - Pray for the release of our nets.
 - Pray for hearts to be prepared for the entrance of God's word.
 - Pray for conviction of the Holy Spirit to fall on lost peoples hearts.
 - Pray for awakening in the state of Florida.
- We are focused on the saving of souls during this fast. I want to ask:
 - Do we really want to see people born again?
 - Are we really willing to do what it takes to see souls saved?
 - What has to change in our church to see this happen?
 - More so, what has to change in you to see this happen?
- I have noticed in the prayer targets a problem I have created or am creating. None of them have to do with us. All the targets have to do with God doing something for us. What happens if God does His part and we do not do ours?
- I believe we have to do some changing in order to see more people come to Christ. We can pray into the targets and I will preach into change.

I. What Was Jesus Thinking?

- A. There are several ways you can ask this question. Remember Jesus was choosing His team.
 1. Pinching your chin and thinking to yourself, "What was Jesus thinking?"
 2. Wide eyed, Looking at who He is choosing. "What was Jesus thinking?"
 3. Desiring to know, like an analyst or detective, "What was Jesus thinking?"
 4. I believe it is a good question to ask.
- B. What was Jesus thinking about as He chose the twelve?
 1. He prayed so he had received some direction from the Father.
 2. But even after you pick the ones the Father chooses, what is the strategy? How do you turn these 'misfits' into Kingdom loving, Christ following, ministers?
 3. *"While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.""* (Matthew 4:18-19, ESV)
 - a) Follow me - "duete" - a summons to move closer.
 - b) Make - 'poieo' - to make, create. Jesus is saying following me and I will create men out of you who will fish for men and make me disciples. Ie. You join the army they make a soldier out of you.
 - (1) Ie. Make spicy wings
 - (2) Ie. Create gourmet left overs

- c) Jesus, "If you will stay close to me I will teach you how to teach others to follow after me.
 - (1) It was important to Jesus to teach His followers how to catch men. Why? "Because God is good and I want them to know Him!"
 - (2) This was a big reason Jesus was even here! If it was important to Jesus then, isn't it important to Him now?
 - (3) The men/followers had to be shaped into "HARVESTING MACHINES!" What was Jesus thinking? Jesus was thinking about the harvest therefore, he was preparing harvesters to go into the fields that were white ready to harvest.
- C. It takes time to make a fisherman!
 - 1. I am not the best fisherman but I have fun. Ie. Rusty Kemper taught me much about fishing. Where to look for fish. How to tie knots. How and when to set a hook. You can explain all of that but it is not until you are in the boat fishing or on the bank fishing that you are becoming a fisherman.
 - 2. Jesus was asking them to stay close to both hear and observe how men are caught for Christ.

II. What Has To Happen To Become a Fisher of Men?

- A. In other words, what was Jesus going to have to train his disciples in, in order to make them fishers of men?
- B. Jesus' goal was to take these twelve men and reshape them into Kingdom expression.
 - 1. And it is not just limited to the twelve. We know this because in Acts 2 Peter asks when they are choosing another apostle to replace Judas; find someone who has been with us from the beginning.
 - 2. It was not limited to the twelve. You and I are to be reformed/reshape into what the early church looked like!
 - 3. Here is a BIG thought for us: "Maybe we will experience revival when we are genuinely reshaped!" I know this for a fact: Revival will be sustained when we are reshaped into being what He desires His disciples to be.
- C. What has to be reshaped in them and us?
 - 1. Character - being conformed to the image of Christ. (Ro. 8:29)
 - 2. Kingdom understanding. The kingdom required lots of change in how these men would carry out the works of God. Sermon on the mount is a kingdom lifestyle.
 - 3. His Authority. Mt 28:18
 - 4. Love beyond their wildest imagination!
 - a) Woman caught in adultery.
 - b) Lepers were welcomed and loved.
 - c) Tax collectors. Jesus ate with sinners.
 - d) Woman with issue of blood.

- e) Dying thieves
5. Religion would have to die in them.
6. Pride would have to die in them as they died to themselves. Don't be like Pharisees
7. This takes time! Jesus did it in three years. And started the biggest move of God ever called the church.

III. Will People Meet Jesus When They Meet You?

- A. This is what we are after!
 1. "I believe when people meet us, the church, it should be like meeting Him, the head." Andy Elms.
 2. *"By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world."* (1 John 4:17, ESV)
- B. Terms to understand.
 1. Disciple - akaloutheo - follower, literally. The Gospels use on this term. After that it is no longer used to speak followers of Christ.
 - a) The disciples followed Jesus. But Jesus now lives in us!
 - b) We can only follow by looking back, and move ahead by acknowledging Christ in us the Hope of glory and following His leadership in us!
 2. Mathates - disciple, student, learner. Luke uses this term extensively in his Gospel and especially in the book of Acts. Paul never uses the words in his letters.
 - a) Paul and Peter use the word 'imitators' for the English word follower. 1 Thes 1:6; 1 Peter 3:13
 3. Christian - Acts 11:26; Agrippa Acts 26:28
 4. Church - ekklesia is used extensively by Paul in his letter and in his conversations in Acts! I think this is important.
 - a) I think Andy Elms was right, "I believe when people meet us, the church, it should be like meeting Him, the head." Andy Elms.
 - b) It means the assembly is what God has in mind!
- C. Ekklesia - The new name for disciples is the church or churches.
 1. The church big or small is to be the most welcoming people on earth.
 2. The church is to be the most powerful assembly on earth.
 3. The church is the most life giving assembly on earth.

Conclusion:

- Souls saved has more to do with us being reshaped by God than program we could ever put in place.
- Our lives shaped by Christ become the most powerful evangelistic tool we have.
- "I believe when people meet us, the church, it should be like meeting Him, the head." Andy Elms.