

MARK 1:16-20 THE CALLED AND THE CALL

INTRO:

- The TV show "the Deadliest Catch," about Alaskan crab fisherman in the Bering sea.
- Waves 60' high, dangerous crab cages swinging around as the ship sways back and forth weighing as much as 700#. Freezing weather.
- There accident rate is nearly 100% with the highest death rate of any occupation in the world. The fatality rate is 141.7 per 100,000, almost 75% higher than the fatality rate for pilots, flight engineers, and loggers, the next most hazardous occupations.
- But that rate is based on all commercial fishermen, whereas taken by themselves, the crab fisherman of the Bering sea the rate raises to 300/100,000 twice as high at 150% more than the next deadliest occupation. What risk, what labor, what cost and WHY?
- Jesus calls His disciples to be fishermen also...

READ: MK. 1:16-20

- Jesus appears here as a master Teacher. A master, or teacher must have followers, must have students and A shepherd must have sheep.
- Jesus is assured of followers by His Father for the Father said in Jn. 6:37 "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me."
- The children of men in their natural condition are lost and wander endlessly in the great ocean of this world; they are carried downstream and are lost without the Savior.
- This was not the disciples first call, having had one previously. **Jn. 1:35-49.**
- They spent some months with Jesus and accompanied Him at the wedding in Cana, and the healing of the Nobleman's son. Jn. 4)
- We must notice that Jesus walked, not ran,
- He was the busiest most tasked man in history and yet He is not rushing around, not racing to and from, but walking, He was at rest yet doing all the Fathers will and business.

Now let's look closer to see what we can learn and apply from these verses. We will observe that there are basically 3 movements.

I have gathered my thoughts under these 2 headings.

THE CALLED:

THE CALLING:

1) THE CALLED:

- Notice Christ's call went to men who were employed, busy working and not idle. They were not time wasters. (vs 16, 19)
- God loves busy faithful men and women, the working man and women.
- Those who have taken an imitative to busy themselves with the essentials of life.
- Moses was keeping sheep when God called him from the burning bush, Gideon was thrashing wheat, Elisha was ploughing a field, and these men were fishing.
- The vessels God has chosen to employ in the spreading and setting and setting up of His Kingdom were the weak and the foolish ones of this world, that the excellency of the power may appear to be wholly of God. **1 Cor. 1: 1, 2, 9, 22-29**
- These men were not necessarily well educated, but they were devout, hardworking, faithful and committed. These things fitted them for service in the Master's calling.
- How wonderful and amazing it is that the all-powerful Creator and Master of the universe should stoop to ask lowly, weak and frail man to join Him in His work. As the scriptures say in;
 - For we are God's fellow workers; 1 Cor. 3:9
 - We then, as workers together with Him; 2 Cor. 6:1
- Their decision to follow Him immediately could not have been an easy one.
- Peter was a family man, perhaps the others as well.
- They all had business and property and real and serious responsibility.
- Like old Abraham, they went out not knowing whither. (Heb. 11:8)
- And like those in Revelation where we are told," these are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. (Rev. 14:4)
- These are the men and women God uses in His kingdom, faithful. Those who see themselves and commit themselves as co-owners of God's business and not renters.

2) THE CALLING:

- This title, "fishers of men" was the first label given to faithful followers of Christ. (vs 17)
- The business of the servant of God is to fish for the souls of men.
- As fisherman, they strive to catch fish, they use all means to do so, and they grieve if unsuccessful.
- They must toil day and night; they wait patiently and work tirelessly in hope. Should we do less?
- One of Paul's very last commands to his son in the faith Timothy was to do the work of an evangelist. 2 Tim. 4:5.

- Those whom Christ calls are called to leave all to follow Him. No turning back.
 - **Lk. 14:19**
- Notice their instant immediate and total response to obedience. True obedience is now! Not tomorrow. (vs 18, 20)
- The word of God did not get overlooked by them, it bore fruit. They acted on the word of God. **(Heb. 2:1-3)**
- These men were to labor to draw men's souls out of the bondage of darkness into the light of God, from the power of satan to God.
- Mark mentions they did not just leave their father, but also their associates, their work fellows.
- The principal underlying the call of God was that He calls men and women to consecrate and separate themselves to His will, His plans, His kingdom.
 - **(Mk. 10:29, 30)** Mt. 16:24
- And tasks them according to the capacity they had received from Him, and rewards them according to their faithfulness.
 - **(Mt. 25: 21, 23)**
- He is able to fit them for the very service to which He called them. He will gift us and fit us for our calling and work.
- We in return are to surrender to Him all our gifting, strengths, time and talents, to serve Him and His kingdom.
- When these disciples left all to follow Him, little did they know where their lives would go. Where Jesus would lead them, what honor or dishonor would be theirs, what hardships or ease, what wealth or poverty, what health or sickness, life or death.
- Let's look at Paul's description of the apostles, these first fishermen.
 - **1 cor. 4:9-16**
- Little did they know they would be co-builders and pillars of the great house hold of God.
 - Eph. 2:20; having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.
 - Rev. 21:14; Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

CONCLUSION:

- What is our take away from these verses, what is our lesson?
- Am I a fisher of men's souls?
- Am I heeding and fulfilling the call of God in my life?
- **Phil. 3:12-16**