**Matthew 4:18-22**

Introduction

I. We are looking at the moments when Jesus first reveals himself to the world

II. These “firsts” give Jesus an opportunity to communicate who he is and what he’s come to do

The Passage

I. Matthew 4:18-22

A. The command: “Come, follow me”

1. This is the essential command of discipleship

2. Jesus is a 1st century rabbi formally calling these fishermen into his school of disciples

a. Contrary to other first century rabbis, Jesus initiates the invitation to his disciples

b. And Jesus doesn’t pick the best and brightest; he chooses ordinary people

3. Implied in this command is the need to leave certain things behind to follow Jesus (v. 20 and 22)

4. This command is still relevant today because Jesus is at work today

B. The promise: “I will make you fishers of men”

1. Jesus is saying that formerly they spent their lives for fishing for fish, but when they follow him, they will start to fish for people (cast the net of the gospel and gather people into the kingdom of God)

2. Whereas with fish getting caught means death, with people getting caught means life

3. Notice how explicit this idea of reaching out is from the very beginning

4. Notice this is not a command but a promise: “I will make you”

a. Jesus himself is the true fisher of men

b. He is the true fisherman in this passage

c. As we follow him, we gain his heart and passion for catching people

When people follow him, they become like him, they gain his passion for people

5. This promise is still relevant today

II. Luke 5:1-11

A. v. 3: Jesus in fishing boat casting his net (preaching the Word of God)

B. Jesus gives these fisherman an experience with fish that is a parable/pointer for what their lives with him will be like = an abundant catch

1. They try to catch fish all night long in their own power and come up with nothing

2. They obey his word and have a miraculous catch of fish

3. This is exactly what will happen in the book of Acts. In the power of Jesus’ Spirit, these men will cast their nets (share the gospel of Jesus) and haul in a miraculous catch of people

Conclusion

I. How do you fit into this story?

A. Who are you being called to reach out to? Who is on your “radar list”?

B. How are you called to do this? (prayer, hospitality, finding ways to communicate the gospel, asking good questions, using your hobbies as a venue, serving, etc.)

II. We are all called to play some part in this

A. If we are truly Jesus’ followers, we will become fishers of people

1. Jesus’ heart and passion and priority for people will become our passion and priority

2. Notice Jesus passion and perspective in Matthew 9:36-38

B. We are not responsible for the catch of fish

1. We’re simply responsible to keep casting those nets

2. People are gathered to Christ by his authority, and in his timing

3. That should free us up to share

**Discussion Questions**

1. Consider Jesus command: “come, follow me.” Instead of thinking of yourself as a “Christian,” what if you thought of yourself as a “follower” of Jesus? How does that change how you think about your life, and what reactions does that elicit in you (excitement, fear, joy, etc.)?

2. Consider Jesus’ promise: “I will make you fishers of men.” Have you historically considered being “fishers of men” as a fundamental part of what following Jesus is all about? How did Sunday’s passages affect your perspective on that issue?

3. Consider this fishing image of “gathering people” into the kingdom. How would you articulate what people are “saved from” and what people are “saved for” when they come faith in Christ?

4. Who specifically has God put in your life that you believe you are called to intentionally pursue at this time? That is, who is on your “radar list”?

5. How are you called to do pursue those people at this time (e.g. prayer, hospitality, finding ways to communicate the gospel, asking good questions, using your hobbies as a venue, serving, etc.)?