

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.

17-21 Oct 2011

LESSON 3 GOD'S SERVANT CALLING OTHERS

INTRODUCTION:

What assignment or job have you ever been "called" to that you have felt inadequate to do?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION:

Note: As Jesus' popularity grew, so did the demands on His time. We find an ever-increasing number of people who began to come after Him. In preparation for His mission, the first disciples are called to be fishers of men and then the Twelve are set apart. "At first they do not impress us as being key men. In short, these men selected by the Lord to be His assistants represented an average cross section of the lot of the society in their day. Not the kind of group that one would expect to win the world for Christ. Yet Jesus saw in these simple men the potential of leadership for the Kingdom." –Robert Coleman

Read Mark 1:16-20

Note: Ministry in the predominantly Gentile northern Palestine was a fulfillment of the prophecy of Isa. 9. No one expected anything spiritually significant to begin in this region, far removed from the Temple (John 1:46) and the first to be defeated and exiled by the Mesopotamian powers. Fishing in the OT was often a metaphor for judgment (Jer. 16:16. Ezek. 29:4-5; 38:4; Amos 4:2; Hab. 1:14-17). Here it is a metaphor of salvation.¹

1. At what point in Jesus' ministry did these events occur?
2. Where did Jesus find the first four disciples?
3. What did Jesus call them *from*? What did He call them *to*?
4. Why did they leave a successful livelihood (without even consulting their family)? What does this say about the cost of discipleship? Jn 6:65-69

Read Mark 2:13-17

Note: Levi's new name "Matthew" means the gift of God. "Sinners" was a technical term of the Pharisees for the common people that were either untaught in the Law or defiant because they didn't observe all of them. Sharing a meal was an expression of trust and fellowship.

5. Where did Jesus find Levi, the son of Alphaeus?
6. What did Jesus do differently with Levi?
7. Do you think Rome would give him his job back after associating with Jesus? Lk 5:28
8. What did Jesus say was His purpose for coming? Luke 19:10, Eph 2:1,5

Read Mark 3:13-19 (Luke 6:12)

9. Who did Jesus call? What was their response?
10. According to these verses, what was His purpose for calling them?
11. Why did they need to spend time with Him?

APPLICATION

- What is the relationship between being "with Him" and being "sent by Him"?
- How has Jesus called you? To what purpose has He called you?

And the things that you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to reliable who will also be qualified to teach others. 2 Timothy 2:2

¹ Utley, R. J. D. (2001). *Vol. Volume 2: The Gospel According to Peter: Mark and I & II Peter*. Study Guide Commentary Series (19). Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International.