

The Correspondent



SUNDAY

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM & 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study (Adult) 1:30 PM
Bible Study (All Ages) 7:00 PM
www.collinsvillecoc.org
(618) 667-6708

For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

Vol. 49 No. 15

1400 Troy Road Collinsville, Illinois 62234

April 11, 2021

Fishers of Men

-Renn Ferguson

For as long as I can remember, I have always enjoyed fishing. When I was a little kid, no more than six years old and probably closer to four or five, there was a fishing tournament in our area. I do not know how or why but one year I ended up participating in the tournament. Not only did I participate in it...I won! (Well, my dad probably won but he gave me the credit.) For my efforts I was awarded two tickets to see the Atlanta Braves play at Turner Field. For a young Georgia boy that was the greatest reward imaginable. Ever since, I have always enjoyed fishing.

Many times, when I go out to fish or think back to fishing with dad on camping trips, I am reminded of our brethren in the first century. Specifically, the twelve apostles, most of whom were fishermen. In Matthew 4:18-22 we read, "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." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him." (ESV) Here are two sets of brothers in the process of or preparing to fish when Christ called them. Upon hearing the call, they dropped everything and followed Jesus. This call was to become fishers of men. It is interesting to me that in all four accounts of this never do we see these men asking Christ what He meant. We just see that they dropped everything and went with Jesus.

These men are great examples for us today. Though, we have not been called in the same way they were we have been called. Paul informs us in 2 Thessalonians 2:14, "To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." Every one of us who has obeyed the gospel has been called by God. What have we been called to do? Exactly what Peter, Andrew, James, and John were called to do, fish. Matthew 28:18-20 states, "And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." This is a command that has been given to every member of the church. Every one of us should, in some way, be declaring the gospel.

I love how the scriptures tell us that these men immediately followed Jesus. They did not sit around and wait for a few years to think about it. They left everything to follow Jesus. We, likewise, should do the same. There is too much at stake for us to sit around twiddling our thumbs hoping that someone else will try to teach the lost. There is urgency in preaching the gospel and we need to act like it. Paul is also a wonderful example of this. Acts 9 records the conversion of Paul. Notice what is said in verse 20, "and immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.'" Paul went to work immediately because he understood the gravity of the situation. I hope and pray that we will likewise see the urgency, and necessity of the gospel in our world today.