

Content

After Jesus arrives on the scene and begins His public ministry with His proclamation of the gospel of the kingdom, He begins to form His new kingdom community. He does so by calling His first disciples, Simon (Peter) and his brother Andrew, and the sons of Zebedee, James and John. In calling them He gives them both an identity and a purpose or commission. And that will be the simple outline we will follow this morning as we dive into this text in Mark's gospel. We will look at first the new kingdom community's (1) Identity as Followers. Our fundamental identity is as followers of Jesus. That takes priority over everything else. Jesus is forming a new family around Himself. And second the new kingdom community's (2) Purpose as Fishers of Men. Jesus promises that His new family will become fishers of men. It is so encouraging that this is not automatic but a process. Jesus promises that His people will become fishers of men. That is our purpose and Jesus promises that He will fulfill it.

Gospel Connections

We, of course, are fishers of men because that was what Jesus was for us. Jesus did not wait for us to go to Him. Instead, He came to us. He left His Father's throne above and came to "fish" men out of the realm of darkness and bring us into His own kingdom. And, of course, for Jesus that path led Him to the cross. For Jesus to fish men required that He take upon Himself all that we deserved on the cross.

Application and Discussion Questions

1. What did you learn from this sermon? Specifically
 - a. What insights did you learn?
 - b. What questions do you have? Are there any areas you don't understand?
 - c. What areas of your life (be specific) do you sense God wants to change as a result of this passage of Scripture?

2. Would you describe yourself as a "fisher of men?" Why? How can you (we as a church) be more effective "fishers of men"?

3. In the 5 Habits of Highly Missional People Alan Hirsch shares the five habits in what he calls the BELLS model. This model is:
 - a. Bless others

- b. Eat together
- c. Listen to the Spirit (through the Word)
- d. Learn Christ
- e. Sent – Understand yourself as sent by God into others' lives (see John 20:21)

How can this model help us as individuals and as a church become more effective “fishers of men”?