

MADE TO FISH, COMMISSIONED TO GO

DATE: SUNDAY, 10TH OF OCTOBER 2021 | MARCUS HERBERT

TALK
IT OVER

MATTHEW 4:18-20

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.

MATTHEW 28:18-20

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[a] 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."

NOTES FOR LEADERS:

Our "Business Connect" is coming up on Wednesday, the 20th of October (08h00 - 09h00). We will be interviewing some inspirational people who have used their businesses as a platform to impact their local communities and the nation.

The event will be live-streamed to YouTube and Facebook and is a great opportunity for a company "team-building" or to invite your co-workers or clients to watch with you.

For those that would like to join us on-site, Coffees will be on sale from 7:30am.

START TALKING

1. Was there anything in Marcus's preach that challenged you?
2. Would you rather fish for your supper or get a fish & chips takeaway?

START THINKING

Read Matthew 4:18-20.

1. Are you or anyone in your family a keen fisherman? What are the attributes required to be a successful fisherman? Which of those attributes apply to 'fishing for men' (i.e. reaching people with the good news about Jesus)?
2. What are some obstacles people face today when deciding to follow Jesus?

START SHARING

1. Imagine yourself in the same position as Peter & Andrew. They had to decide between their jobs and comfort or following Jesus. What would your response have been to Jesus' invitation and why?
2. One of the greatest weapons God has given us is our testimony (testimony = our story of how we came to follow Jesus). What is your story? Who would like to share their testimony with the group? (Note to leaders: allow a couple of different people to share. If there is someone who has never shared their testimony, encourage them to share within the safety of the group.)

START PRAYING

On Sunday, Marcus asked: "What's the size of your fishing pool?" As a group, make a list of the people whose lives you're trusting God for. Pray for them today and commit to praying for them daily over the next month.

START DOING

1. This week, during your prayer times, ask God for opportunities to share the Gospel.
2. Part of sharing the Gospel is reflecting Jesus. How are you going to reach out to someone in love this week? Do you know someone who is sick? Pray with them. Do you know someone who is hungry? Prepare a meal for them.

SUMMARY

OF SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

This Sunday, we had the privilege of welcoming Marcus Herbert from Cornerstone Church in Johannesburg. Marcus is also part of the NCMI translocal team, and he shared a challenging message with us: #made-to-fish-commissioned-to-go

Matthew 4:18-20 is a scripture familiar to many of us: *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."* Note that Jesus didn't call the fishermen to follow Him so that he could make them comfortable or to be a bunch of executives that would parade themselves around Israel and Palestine; Jesus called them to be fishers of men.

But not only has God called us to fish, but He has also commissioned us to "GO". *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."* Matthew 28:18-20.

The "fishing" and "commissioning" are not special projects, they are the very reason that God saved us. Our salvation is not about our comfort. If we are followers of Jesus, He's going to make us fishers of men.

So what's the size of your fishing pool? In these covid times, the "fish" are jumping into the boat! People are fearful, anxious, suffering... and they desperately need Hope. God wants to use us to impact the lives of others. The greater adventure is in making our lives count for someone else.

Our Victory

We're currently in a battle between light and darkness: *Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* John 8:12. And of our enemy, Pauls says: *For even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Satan operates in darkness.* 2 Corinthians 11:14. This is the time to win the fight against evil by preaching the Gospel.

One of the scariest passages of scripture in the Bible is Revelation 12:4... It's about the enemy trying to stop something in the birthing stage: *His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it.* The enemy tried to take Jesus out like that, as well as Moses. Revelation 12 is all about overcoming. As Christ-followers, our victory is ensured.

End times scripture is all about Jesus, and we need to focus on the fact that He is already victorious and has conquered the enemy. Right in the middle of Revelation, chapter 12, we find this beautiful verse: *And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.* Revelation 12:11.

If we are made to fish and commissioned to go, we need to understand this:

The blood of the Lamb = **THE GOSPEL**

The word of their testimony = **THE GOSPEL IN ME**

They loved not their lives even unto death = **THE GOSPEL THROUGH ME TO OTHERS**

1. The blood of the Lamb - THE GOSPEL

JUSTIFICATION - I have been saved (past tense). A free gift that we received by grace.

SANCTIFICATION - I am being saved (present tense). Christ is going to make you into something beautiful (more like Him).

GLORIFICATION - I will be saved (future tense). An incredible day when Christ comes back for us, and we'll be with Him forever.

Can you share the Gospel if someone stopped you in the street? The point is to show Hope in a world where people are anxious and fearful. John Piper said: The world does not need cool Christians who are culturally saturated. It needs exiles with the scent of heaven and the aroma of Christ.

2. The word of their testimony = THE GOSPEL IN ME

Note how many times Paul shared his testimony in the book of Acts. He looked for opportunities to share. One of the most powerful evangelistic tools in our arsenal of God-given weapons is our testimony. No one can take your testimony from you - it's a weapon given to you by God to use in this battle against darkness.

3. They loved not their lives even unto death = THE GOSPEL THROUGH ME TO OTHERS

Our go-to place is "I'll do whatever is required as long as it's in my comfort zone." Are you willing to be inconvenienced for the Gospel? Are you willing to pay the price for others? It's not just about receiving grace, but giving grace too!

God needs every hand on deck. It's not a one-off project - everyone needs to be involved:

- It's a lifestyle
- Pray for labourers (ourselves and other Christ-followers)
- Know the Gospel
- Pray for opportunities to share the Gospel

We should be motivated by a genuine love for people. People are often just seen as numbers, but God values each of us so much that He sent His only Son to die on the cross for us. We should be trusting God for the salvation of each unsaved person that we know. Start by reaching out in love - pray for the sick, drop off a meal...