

03-30-14

Scripture: Matthew 4:18-25

Title: Come to Jesus

Walking by the sea

Matthew 4:18-22

Sea of Galilee

Little lake

7 ½ mile at widest, 13 ½ at its longest

618 feet below sea level

Top of valley leading to Dead Sea

1,400 below sea level

Now I know above sea level

Lived most of my life 5,000' above sea level

Denver and Montrose

College was about 7,000

Camp is about 8,000

On the plains and in Nebraska only 3,000

Oak Creek (by Steamboat) was about 7,000

Leadville, one of our favorite mountain towns is 2 miles above sea level – over 10,000 feet

Highest mountains in Colorado called 14ers

14,000 feet above sea level (big ones by Denver – Evans and Longs Peak)

Not much oxygen in those places...

*If I understand correctly we're about 700 – 1000 feet
above sea level here*

Sea of Galilee, probably more like Lake of Galilee

*Is 600 feet **below** – does that mean more O2?*

Going to dead sea 1,400' below

Death Valley in California

Just under 300' below

Lowest place in North America

Hottest, driest place on earth

Both Sea of Galilee and Dead Sea are lower...

In Jesus day 9 populous cities on the shore

Many fishing boats...

This is our scene, where all this takes place

Jesus is walking on the shore of this lake

Finds Peter and Andrew

Follow Me

Matthew 4:19-20

Matthew 4:22

Imagine the situation

You're out working

Just doing your job – working away

This Man comes up and says

Follow me...

You drop everything you're doing and you go

What would it take to do that?

Why would you do that?
How could you do that?

Why... they obeyed

The simply did what Jesus said

They obeyed Him dropped everything

There was authority when He spoke...

They followed Him

His Followers

Now what kind of men was Jesus calling?

Considering the way the disciples acted when
they were w/ Jesus – they had a lot of growing
to do

We think of them later – after Jesus died...

Earlier, they had difficulty understanding Jesus'
teaching, His parables...

In Matthew 14 when the crowds had been with Jesus
for the whole day – they said send them away

They're getting hungry, we'll have to feed them
When a little kid came by they said to get rid of him,
don't want to be bothered with him

Had to ask how many times they're supposed to
forgive someone – the answer was 490...

In the garden of Gethsemane when Jesus asked them
to pray, what did they do? Fell asleep

What did they do when Jesus got arrested? Ran away

Many times we see their pride and arrogance

These men lacked spiritual perception
They had little or no sympathy
Short in the humility department
Limited sense of forgiveness
Persevering in prayer???
And they were a bunch of cowards

Jesus trains them

- *I will make you fishers of men*

Something else we need to remember here...

Who is going to do the training?

Who teaches these men to fish for men?

I – that is Jesus

Jesus is the one that is going to change
this “motley crew” into fishers of men

Who is the One who can give them/us spiritual
perception and understanding?

Who is the One who can give them/us sympathy and
humility?

Where do we go to learn to forgive?

Who can teach us to persevere in prayer?

Who can help us with our pride?

Only one Person – Jesus

Jesus is the One offering to teach them and us, train
them and us, transform them and us

Fishing for men

Going into all the world
Bringing men to Jesus
To the One who changed them

Throughout Galilee

Matthew 4:23

Jesus was going through all Galilee
Incessant effort here
Going around the whole area
This was a constant work
The next 5 chapters – through
chapter 9 expand this one verse
In a very comprehensive sense
He was going around all of Galilee

We used to be part of a ministry that is now called In Faith – Scott and Chris Lynum are part of this Before In Faith – American Missionary Fellowship Before that it was American Sunday School Union Idea came from First Day Clubs The American Sunday School Union was very active during the time of our countries expansion westward Many dedicated believers followed Jesus' call, they obeyed and went to the rural areas of our country They started little Sunday Schools all over the country One missionary would travel over an area... In the beginning by horse back

From one little town to the next

Often meeting in one room school houses

They started Sunday Schools everywhere

They had a route they would travel

Stopping at each little place

Holding Sunday School

Sometimes holding church

Many of these "little" groups grew and became churches, others dried up w/ the towns...

Other missionaries started Bible Camps

You still find many of these Sunday Schools, churches and camps scattered around the country

These missionaries traveled the country

One of these missionaries is our friend back in

Colorado – in his late 70's still going, traveling...

Most any place we were/went to in Eastern Colorado – they knew Bob

Even in Nebraska – western Nebraska

There were people that knew Bob

These missionaries tirelessly went through the whole area

This is what Jesus must have done around Galilee

Traveling around from town to town

Preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom

His area was 40 miles by 70 miles

His area had 204 towns/villages

At the rate of one town/day

It would take over ½ a year to make it to all

Jesus moved among these people

Teaching, preaching and healing them

We will finish this up next week...

Conclusion:

There was a time in the disciples lives when Jesus called them – we only have this recorded for about have of them

For all of them, there was a time

For Peter and Andrew, and James and John one of those times was recorded here in Matthew 4

Out doing their regular work – just fishing

Jesus comes along and calls them

He says to them – follow Me

What do they do?

They drop everything

James and John leave their father...

All four of them leave their work

Jesus offered them something more important than work, even more important than family

He offered them Himself

Follow Me

I will make you

Make you fishers of men
Helping others to find Jesus
Helping other to leave the things of this world behind
Following Jesus who is better than this world

Have you heard Jesus calling you?
Calling you to leave behind the things of this world?
Things that may seem important
Sometimes things that only pretend to offer life

Jesus comes along, where we are and calls us
Calls us to Himself

Will you answer Him?

Those who have...

Will you let Him teach you?

Let Him transform you?

Take away your selfishness, your fear

Fill you with Himself

Give you the strength to fish for men

To tell others of the hope that we have in Jesus...

He may call you to travel around

Or, stay right where you are

Either place – we must tell others

We must fish for men, for people...

Benediction: Acts 3:19

19 "Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;

Sermon outline

03-30-14

Matthew 4:18-25

W_____ by the sea

F_____ Me

T_____ Galilee

T_____

H_____

C_____ to Jesus