

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S6E7

Jesus's Method For Making Disciples - (Mark 1:16-20)

Description – Last time we noted that the disciples were probably young men, mid to older teenagers. Today we'll examine the process that Jesus used to make disciples and how we can use that same process today to invest in those around us.

Back in Mark 1 today, as we continue to look at the first disciples called by Jesus.

Mark 1:16-20

¹⁶ As he passed alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew, Simon's brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ "Follow me," Jesus told them, "and I will make you fish for people." ¹⁸ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ Going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat putting their nets in order. ²⁰ Immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Jesus calls them from fishing, and says that they will fish for people.

Any time in the Bible when you see Animals used symbolically in the Bible, its a call back to peoples, the gentiles specifically.

Ezekiel 47:9-12

⁹ Every kind of living creature that swarms will live wherever the river flows, and there will be a huge number of fish because this water goes there. Since the water will become fresh, there will be life everywhere the river goes. ¹⁰ Fishermen will stand beside it from En-gedi to En-eglaim. These will become places where nets are spread out to dry. Their fish will consist of many different kinds, like the fish of the Mediterranean Sea. ¹¹ Yet its swamps and marshes will not be healed; they will be left for salt. ¹² All kinds of trees providing food will grow along both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. Each month they will bear fresh fruit because the water comes from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be used for eating and their leaves for healing."

A remez also back to Psalm 1 in this passage from Ezekiel.

Jesus is saying, what they're doing is going to be bigger than just the nation of Israel, it's going to impact the whole world.

1. A Disciple Follows Jesus

Jesus's calling of the disciples was odd, because normally a student would go to a rabbi and ask to follow / learn from him. Jesus flips this paradigm upside down, and goes to the student to call them.

The Rabbi would interrogate the potential student, to see what they knew, how fast their memory worked, if they had the "Hutzpa" to make it as a student. And if they were good enough, the Rabbi would say, "Come, follow Torah"

Jesus says to them, "Come, follow me." He is the living word, but it's about a relationship with him. It's personal, it's an individual calling to follow a man, a human. Not some theological system or laws or rules, or a particular church or denomination.

2. A Disciple Is Formed By Jesus

A disciple is known by who they walk after, who they follow after.

"Make you fishers of men" - "Make" has the idea of birthing something into existence, to develop, to grow into something.

The "becoming" here is a slow, arduous process. It's sanctification, which takes a lifetime. It's God doing a work in your life that you can't do on your own.

You can align your life to a place where you grow, but it's God that gives the growth. Becoming a disciple of Jesus isn't an instantaneous process overnight, it's the disciplined day in, day out growth that happens day by day. A great picture of discipleship is the slow steady growth of a bonsai tree. It takes caring for daily.



3. A Disciple Focuses On Others

Come Follow Me - And I'm going to make you focus on others. It's not about you. You may benefit and grow as you follow after Jesus, but you're a vessel for God to use to reach others.

The gospel came to you because it was heading to someone else.

The race set before you is one to run with passion to hand the baton off and pass down a legacy to those who will come after you.

If you love Jesus the most, you'll love others.

But notice the two things the disciples are doing when Jesus calls them. They're casting and mending their nets.

Not only are the words of the bible inspired, but the encounters that Jesus has are also inspired. None of the people Jesus meets, the rich young ruler, the Samaritan woman at the well, the blind man, etc. were accidental encounters. They were sovereignly / providentially arranged by God.

So when Jesus calls the first disciples, what are they doing? They're casting and mending their nets, because they're fishermen.

Casting and mending are pictures of both evangelism and discipleship. Casting being evangelism, preaching and proclaiming the gospel message, some will respond, but some won't... yet. Mending the nets is a picture of preparing / repairing the nets. Getting ready / prepared to go back out and catch more. It's a picture of discipleship, training and equipping.

The root word for "Repair / mend / equip" can also be seen in

2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the man of God may be complete, **equipped** for every good work.

So the word of God equips the men and women of God to be equipped for the work of discipleship.

Ephesians 4:11-12

¹¹And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to **equip the saints** for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ,

You're going to cast to bring people to faith in Christ, and then you're going to equip them (teach them / disciple them) to be casters themselves.