2021 01 24 Fishing and Following.

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| Fishing & Following | Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 62:5-12  1 Corinthians 7:29-31 **Mark 1:14-20** |

I live in an area well known for fishing, both commercial and recreational. Yet I do not enjoy the waiting for a fish to bight. Some find it restful and even regard the fish tug on the line with resentment for disturbing them. If I am fishing I expect to catch fish.

Maybe I have some of that attitude in “fishing for men”! if the gospel of Jesus is being spoken I expect people to respond – why not/ it is the truth – it brings us inner peace with God and changes the lives of others. AND once a commitment is made I do not expect them to be back to the past within a few weeks or days or years – WHY would you turn away from God Who loves us and knows you intimately.

Yet even these men who walked in Jesus’ personal physical company either denied him or betrayed him. It was only after the gift of Gods Spirit came to dwell/live in them that they shone – grew in faith and boldness and went to their death holding to Him and nothing else.

**“**Now after John was [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%201%3A14-20&version=NASB#fen-NASB-24227a)]taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%201%3A14-20&version=NASB#fen-NASB-24227b)]preaching the gospel/good news of God, **15**and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%201%3A14-20&version=NASB#fen-NASB-24228c)]is at hand; repent and [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%201%3A14-20&version=NASB#fen-NASB-24228d)]believe in the gospel/good news.”

As He was going along the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will have you become fishers of people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. Going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John, [[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%201%3A14-20&version=NASB#fen-NASB-24232f)]who were also in the boat mending the nets. Immediately He called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and went away [[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%201%3A14-20&version=NASB#fen-NASB-24233g)]to follow Him.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

First thing – why did these men simply leave every-thing and follow a stranger?

Gods Spirit must have enabled them to recognise something in Jesus, they must have seen something in him that was recognised by the emptiness or aloneness that is in us which only Gods presence can fill.[[2]](#footnote-2)

We know that more than the twelve followed Jesus – 70 are mentioned as being sent out by pairs to tell the good news to the surrounding towns. They were given specific instructions to take no provisions with them but to rely on God to organise the provision. They came back rejoicing that even the demons were subject to them – Jesus said do not rejoice because the demons are subject to you but that your name in written in heaven.[[3]](#footnote-3)

People with hearts that were honest followed Jesus , people whose hearts were to power and prestige and self were threatened by him and showed antagonism.

But to come back to being ‘fishers of men’ there is a series of actions involved in fishing

There are different rolls in a fishing boat and after who looks after the catch, fixes the nets, cleans the boat, repairs theboat?

And so for us – we have different rolls and our temperament in working so closely with others can affect the relationships in the boat and the efficiency of the operating and function of the fishing life.

In our Lords fishing we start by knowing that we are people that God has called, that we have, through repentance and trust, new life in Jesus.

Jesus said ‘follow me and I will make you fishers of men, this is the basis of the call to fish for people to come into Gods Kingdom – the “good news”.

The ‘good news’ of God; “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%201%3A14-20&version=NASB#fen-NASB-24228c)]is at hand; repent and [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%201%3A14-20&version=NASB#fen-NASB-24228d)]believe in the gospel/good news.”

What time is fulfilled: the time of the gaining favour with God through the law and sacrifices – something which could never be achieved. The time has come for God himself to cleans our rebellion and bring us into His family; “because God loved His creation so much he sent His only begotten Son into the world so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life.[[4]](#footnote-4)

What is the ‘kingdom of God’; Gods family. In the ‘Lords Prayer’ Jesus said “Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”[[5]](#footnote-5) – a place were we rejoice that we are not God and rejoice in Gods will.

“The ‘Good News’ is not simply liberation from penalty and escape from past sin; it is the power to live life victoriously and to conquer sin. The message of Jesus is **good news** indeed.”[[6]](#footnote-6)

Repent and believe – repentance require honesty in ourselves with ourselves and knowing that in Jesus we are clean and right in Gods sight.[[7]](#footnote-7) “Repentance means that the person who was in love with sin comes, not only to be sorry for the consequences of our sins, but to hates sin because of its exceeding sinfulness.”[[8]](#footnote-8)

Believe what - again John 3:16.

“Fishing for bringing people” into the Kingdom of God takes a crew, a fishing crew does not say – we don’t need the person who mends the nets or that the one who puts the fuel in the boat is less important than the one who steers or the one who cleans the boat (imagine the smell) how would the church kitchen smell if the one who puts the garbage out did not do their job or take the fish to market and so on. How would the speaker go if they thought ‘yeah well’ I’ll just waffle on for 20 minutes or the musicians played in different keys or …

One plants, one waters but it is God who gives **the** increase[[9]](#footnote-9)

With reaping our Lord Jesus explained, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work. [Do you](https://biblehub.com/greek/4771.htm) [not](https://biblehub.com/greek/3756.htm) [say,](https://biblehub.com/greek/3004.htm) [‘There are](https://biblehub.com/greek/1510.htm) [still](https://biblehub.com/greek/2089.htm) [four months](https://biblehub.com/greek/5072.htm) [until](https://biblehub.com/greek/2532.htm) [the](https://biblehub.com/greek/3588.htm) [harvest’?](https://biblehub.com/greek/2326.htm) [I tell](https://biblehub.com/greek/3004.htm) [you,](https://biblehub.com/greek/4771.htm) [lift up](https://biblehub.com/greek/1869.htm) [your](https://biblehub.com/greek/4771.htm) [eyes](https://biblehub.com/greek/3788.htm) [and](https://biblehub.com/greek/2532.htm) [look at](https://biblehub.com/greek/2300.htm) [the](https://biblehub.com/greek/3588.htm) [fields,](https://biblehub.com/greek/5561.htm) [for](https://biblehub.com/greek/3754.htm) [they are](https://biblehub.com/greek/1510.htm) [ripe](https://biblehub.com/greek/3022.htm) [for](https://biblehub.com/greek/4314.htm) [harvest. Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together.[[10]](#footnote-10)](https://biblehub.com/greek/2326.htm)Already the reaper draws his wages and gathers a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may rejoice together.…

To express it in point form:

1. Hear Jesus speaking to us
2. Respond
3. Know who we are in Jesus – “Jesus became sin for us so that we might become the rightness of God in Him”.[[11]](#footnote-11)
4. Know that we are ineffective without God Spirit bringing Jesus to us permanently. “He is with you but will be in you”[[12]](#footnote-12) “The Holy Spirit will bring me to you”[[13]](#footnote-13) and after his resurrection He said to His followers to “remain where they were until the Holy Spirit came to them”[[14]](#footnote-14). We know that when we come in repentance and trust in Jesus we have Gods Presence in us and God will reveal Jesus in us.
5. Each person has a living place in the body of Jesus on this earth –they are not the same abilities and we should not expect to have the same ability as someone else – this envy and is destructive. “The gifts of the spirit are distributed to each one as the holy spirit sees fit”[[15]](#footnote-15) - want to argue with Holy Spirit! If I am an oarsman or a rigger or cleaner or the one who takes the fish to market or pays the bills – thank you Lord.

[1 Corinthians 12:11.](https://biblehub.com/1_corinthians/12-11.htm)

“It is the one and only **Spirit** who distributes all these **gifts**. ... brought about by one and the same [**Holy**] **Spirit**, distributing to each one individually just as He chooses. ... various miracles, and **gifts** of the **Holy Spirit distributed** according to His will.”

1. Now here comes the crunch – the interpersonal relationships in the ship *relationships in the ship!*

If I have the gift of moving mountains but have not love I am nothing but a lot of annoying noise – a clanging cymbal…

1. We are all individually given what we call “The fruit of The Holy Spirits presence in us – without this being active and growing in our character in every one of us there will be ‘rocking in the boat’ and torn sails and an unhappy crew that other boat crews will think “I do not think that I will apply for a job on that boat!”
2. Who is the captain of the boat – ultimately and in reality at all levels it is our God/Heavenly Father and God will allocate the gift of ‘?’ to the person that we designate ‘paster’.

“These were his instructions to them: “**The harvest** is plentiful, but the **workers are few**. So, beseech to the Lord who is in charge of **the harvest**; ask him to send more workers into HIS harvest. Go, behold I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.”[[16]](#footnote-16)

Behold I AM with you “no one comes to the Father” no one gets into the boat “except through me.”[[17]](#footnote-17)

“The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come: let the one who wishes take of the water of life without cost.”[[18]](#footnote-18)

# Psalm 62:5-12 **Psalm 62:5-12**

# **New Revised Standard Version**

**5For God alone my soul waits in silence,  
    for my hope is from him**.  
**6He alone is my rock and my salvation,  
    my fortress; I shall not be shaken.  
7On God rests my deliverance and my honor;**  
    my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

**8Trust in him at all times, O people;  
    pour out your heart before him;  
    God is a refuge for us**.*Selah*

**9**Those of low estate are but a breath,  
    those of high estate are a delusion;  
in the balances they go up;  
    they are together lighter than a breath.  
**10**Put no confidence in extortion,  
    and set no vain hopes on robbery;  
**if riches increase, do not set your heart on them**.

**11**Once God has spoken;  
    twice have I heard this:  
**that power belongs to God**,  
12    and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord.  
For you repay to all  
    according to their work.

1. Mark 1:14-20 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Romans 1. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Luke 10:20 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. John 3:16 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. 1 Corinthians 3:4-9 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. William Barclay “The Gospel of Mark” [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. 2 Corinthians 5:21 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. William Barclay “The Gospel of Mark” [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. 1 Corinthians 3:4-9 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. John 4:35,36 [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. 2 Corinthians 5:21 [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. John 14-16 [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. John 14:16 [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. 1 Corinthians 12:11-21 [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Luke 10:2,3. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. John 14:6 [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Revelation [↑](#footnote-ref-18)