

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

My dear beloved flock, the text for our meditation this morning is the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew the Fourth Chapter verses twelve through twenty-five.

**300 soldiers what is your profession? Ho ra!, Men of Athens: bakers, others. What is your occupation/profession?**

Boys and Girls, I pray that you are doing well this morning. Have you ever been given a job to do? Maybe Mom or Dad have asked you to help set the table and grab spoons or forks for everyone before dinner. Maybe you had to put away the clean dishes or put the dirty ones in the sink. You had to take out the trash or clean your room. In our text for today, we hear of four men, Peter, James, John, and Andrew. They had a job of being fishermen, of catching fish and food. Yet, Jesus says they will now be fishers not of fish but of men, how do they fish for people? How do we fish for people today? Ponder those questions as you hear the rest of the sermon. You may go back to your seats and those who love you.

In the Movie, *300*, the Spartan forces confront another group of warriors. **Leonidas**, the Spartan leader, asks "What is your profession?" from three men in the opposing army. One replies "Potter, Sir." "Sculptor." Replies another. "Blacksmith." The last replies. Then, he asks his Spartan army "What is your profession?" Every single one of them replies with a hoorah war cry. They are all united in their occupation and profession.

**Peter, Andrew, James, and John fishermen on Sea of Galilee. Now called to Higher Fishing of men, salvation of souls, Done by pointing people to JC, Cost: Left family for new occupation**

We see Peter, James, John and Andrew united in their profession. They are fishermen on the Sea of Galilee providing food for their families and communities on a daily basis. They are working with their friends and families, Matthew notes that James and John are working with their father on the nets before the next catch. As Jesus is walking by on the seashore, He calls the four to come and follow Him. He states that they would no longer be

fishermen, rather they will fishers of men instead. They will no longer catch fish but men.

Peter and Andrew understood exactly what Jesus meant when he said he would make them fishers of men. In their new calling, just as in their old calling, they would still have to be patient and persevering, never knowing for sure what the results of their labors might amount to. They would follow Jesus' instructions and trust him to bring about the results he had in mind. They would use the "net" that he provided. We call that net the *means of grace*, the gospel of Christ in Word and sacrament. There is no other power in the whole world that can bring sinners into Christ's kingdom. Only the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses people of all their sins, and only such cleansed sinners are received into God's kingdom for time and for eternity.<sup>1</sup>

**What is our Calling? Similar, point people to JC, not always called to leave people/work to do so.**

Like the four disciples, are we united in our callings? We all have a wide variety of callings. To use the old adage, we all wear many hats. The disciples had fisherman, friend, husband, child, and father. We have Dad, Pastor, Husband, Wife, Mom, Dad, Overseer, Employee, child, hearer, citizen, and many more.

We all have many hats that we wear. At times because of this sin filled world that we live in, we can feel like all of our various callings are pulling us apart in multiple ways all at the same time. Do I give more time to work so that we have more income or do I take some time off to spend time with family? Do I spend time with my kids at their games or focus on my spouse and their needs? Do I have the time for this hobby now or will I be neglecting my family? Can I actually sit down and watch the sports game in peace and quiet? I am sure you have felt the pull of multiple vocations all at once. Living in this sinful world there is no easy answer, we have to make hard decisions at times.

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<sup>1</sup> Albrecht, G. J., & Albrecht, M. J. (1996). [Matthew](#) (p. 58). Northwestern Pub. House.

We make the decisions knowing that in spite of the pull we feel from our many vocations, they all are united in one singular calling, in one singular purpose. That purpose? The same as the four disciples, to be fishers of men. Unlike the disciples, we are not always called to immediately leave our family, friends, or work behind. Yet we are called to be fishers of men. Our net is the same as the disciples, the means of grace that God gives to us. The grace of God shows forth in our lives in how we live out our various vocations, our thoughts, words, and deeds can be used to bring others to saving faith in Jesus Christ and His death and resurrection. That wonderful message that in and through Jesus Christ, we have the forgiveness of our sins and the salvation of our souls. That on the cross, Jesus paid the price for us fully to reconcile us back to God once again.

This message is one that we are used to spread to others but it is not one that we ourselves bring to fruition. God uses us as a tool to spread His message. Just as the disciples did not depend upon themselves but upon Jesus Christ, so too do we. Through the means of Grace, found in His Word and Sacraments, men are trapped for God. We do not need to use flowery language or motivational speeches, or new work smarter or harder ideas. Instead, we let the Holy Spirit do His work. It is His work to call, gather, enlighten, and sanctify His people. We are merely the ones called to go and be the proclaimers through our thoughts, words, and deeds to those around us.

Christian, what is your profession?! To be fishers of men. As we live out our various vocations, may we indeed be fishers of men that they too may hear the calling of our Savior to follow Him.

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard and keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.