

MATTHEW 4. 12-23 EYNSFORD/FARNINGHAM 26 JAN 2020

19 Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

In our Gospel reading today, Peter and Andrew, and James and John were doing what they routinely did, day in and day out. They were fishermen; so, you would expect Peter and Andrew to be casting their nets into the water; you would expect fishermen like James and John in their boat mending their nets for another day of fishing. What happened that day that they didn't expect is that all four men would leave what they were doing and follow Jesus? And I want to know "why" because in finding out why, I may discover part of the missing ingredients that could make my life more than what it is now.

LIFE CALLS YOU AND ME TO A ROUTINE; GOD CALLS YOU AND ME TO A CALLING.

Do we fight the calling of God, because we like to stick in our routines. The only problem is that routines are not fulfilling, God's calling is.

DO WE FAIL TO GET MORE OUT OF LIFE BECAUSE WE WANT THE WHOLE PICTURE LAID OUT BEFORE US AND GOD IS ONLY GOING TO SHOW US THE STEP IN FRONT OF US.

Think about Peter as he is out there casting his net into the sea of Galilee. When Jesus said "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men". Do you think that he thought to himself, one day I am going to lead the church? Do you think that he thought to himself, one day I will preach and on that day of Pentecost, I will lead 3,000 souls to Christ? Do you think that he knew that he would ever write something called 1st & 2nd Peter, and that these Epistles would be read by people 2,000 years later? Do you think that Peter thought if I follow this man, I will be remembered by people two thousand years after I am gone? The only thing that he knew was the next step, that he was to follow Jesus.

Peter and Andrew, James and John were obviously looking for more out of life than fishing and when Jesus called them to be fishers of men, they may not have known what that meant but it must have sounded more fulfilling than catching fish.

When God calls you, and me to do something, most times we are not going to know how God has it planned out, nor is He going to let us in on His full plan except one step at a time. Nowhere in this passage of Scripture do we see Peter or any other of the three men asking Jesus: now how is this going to work. If they wanted to follow the call, they had to take that first step.

And just like the apostles, He calls us to be faithful to little steps, so that He can entrust us with much.

I'm sure when Dorothy first became a Christian she didn't think, well, when I'm older I can look forward to being an associate Rector. I wonder how things would have different for her if she had known!!

I know that if I had known what was planned for me, I would probably have ended up a nervous wreck. Because of the quiet shy person that I was back then.

But God leads us one step at a time, before moving us on to the next, and the next, and the next. It doesn't matter where we are in your Christian faith journey whether you're enquiring or in leadership, there is always another step for us to take.

To Peter and Andrew, Jesus said: "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

To James and John, Jesus called to them and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

In the Gospel of Luke chapter 14, there is a parable called the Parable of the Great Banquet. Three people were called to the banquet, all three hesitated, made an excuse and didn't attend.

There is a song I learnt years ago about the 3 people who were invited to the banquet. I cannot come, I cannot come to the banquet, don't trouble me now, I have married a wife, I have bought me a cow, I have fields and commitments that cost a pretty sum, pray hold me excused I cannot come.

Is that the same with us, do we hesitate, and do we not do what God has called us to do, are we frightened to take the next step. Then the result is that we miss getting the most out of life.

The most powerful weapon of destruction in the world is a nuclear bomb that destroys by a chain reaction.

Jesus once started his own chain reaction, but not one that destroys. but through His words and through His sacrifice on the cross, He released the most powerful chain reaction force for good the world has ever known.

We play a part in this chain reaction. Jesus spoke His Word to His apostles, they spoke to others, and somehow over the centuries, it eventually reached us.

With the new life we have been given, it's up to us to continue that chain reaction - to send shock waves of eternal life through our neighbourhood and the world, passing on His Word to those who so desperately need to hear the Good News.

Matthew chapter 28 ends with the Great Commission :-[Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.](#)

Let's imagine Jesus is standing in the pulpit now looking down at you, not the person behind you, beside you or in front of you, but you. [He says Follow me!](#)

But look we can't, we've got people coming and the children to look after, and we're very busy people, and, and...
[You're stalling he says, making excuses.](#)

What will people say, do we have to?
[Do you love me](#)

But we're scared, and we can't do it by ourselves.
[Where do you think I will be? Jesus again says follow me!](#)

You look around, Jesus is talking to YOU. Do you look down and walk out of the door satisfied with where you are, the step you're on?
Or do you look up into the pulpit, look into Jesus eyes and say, HEAR I AM LORD LEAD ME.

There is always another step to take.

Let us pray.

Dear Lord.

I am so grateful to those who made it possible for me to hear the Good News of Your love. Help me to spread it forward, by telling those with whom I come in to contact, about the wonderful things You have done.

In Jesus' name I pray.

Amen