

Notes for Matthew 4:18-21

Hebrew & Greek pronunciation spelled phonetically

Isaiah 6:8 - And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."

1 John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us.

Being a Follower of Christ is not a self-help plan, but it is a self-improvement plan. Our improvement comes because of Christ through our abiding in Him. We abide in Him through time in scripture and in prayer and we do our best. He is the one who does the rest. One thing being a Follow of Christ does share with most self-help plans? It does not work if we put no effort into it! We don't just invite Jesus into our life and then sit in a chair and wait for the magic to happen. He calls us and we respond. Maybe shyly, maybe clumsily, but we respond, nonetheless.

Matthew 28:19-20 - Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 - For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; 15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

Luke 9:59-62 - To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." 60 And Jesus[a] said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." 61 Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." 62 Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Matthew leaves the tax booth - immediately - when Jesus calls. But we see the opposite in Matthew 19, Mark 10, Luke 18. The rich young ruler (probably a Pharisee) walks away sad because he cannot let go.

Sometimes our love for Christ is proven by what we cling to. Our nets may not be sinful things. They may be good things like jobs, comfort, approval, money, image, hobbies - Our version of what our life looks like. Ask, is God telling me to move somewhere, to leave that high paying job, to quit our hobby. Or at least spend less time and money on it?

Like those fishermen, sometimes to follow Him, we need to leave our nets behind.

James 2:19 - You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe - and shudder!

Galatians 1:8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.

The Greek *katartizō* (kat-ar-tid'-zo) means to mend, restore, put in order; a net for example. But it also means ethically to strengthen, perfect, complete, make one what he ought to be. Jesus is calling menders - and He will turn net-menders into soul-menders.

Matthew 20:28 - even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Mark 9:24 - Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

Romans 10:17 - So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

Give someone the gift of Christ & fellowship this year and invite them to GCC! They may just decide to stick around and be part of our growing family!

Notes for Matthew 4:1-4

MATTHEW 4:18-21

18 WHILE WALKING BY THE SEA OF GALILEE, HE SAW TWO BROTHERS, SIMON (WHO IS CALLED PETER) AND ANDREW HIS BROTHER, CASTING A NET INTO THE SEA, FOR THEY WERE FISHERMEN.

19 AND HE SAID TO THEM, “FOLLOW ME, AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN.”

20 IMMEDIATELY THEY LEFT THEIR NETS
AND FOLLOWED HIM.

21 AND GOING ON FROM THERE HE SAW TWO OTHER BROTHERS, JAMES THE SON OF ZEBEDEE AND JOHN HIS BROTHER, IN THE BOAT WITH ZEBEDEE THEIR FATHER, MENDING THEIR NETS, AND HE CALLED THEM.

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