

The Four Gospels of the Bible, Calling of the First Disciples

Matthew 4:18-22

¹⁸ As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers; Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake for they were fishermen. (NIV)

Walking along the beach of Lake Galilee, Jesus saw two brothers: Simon (later called Peter) and Andrew. They were fishing, throwing their nets into the lake. It was their regular work. Jesus said to them, "Come with me, I'll make a new kind of fisherman out of you. I'll show you how to catch men and women instead of perch and bass." They didn't ask questions but simply dropped their nets and followed.

Did not ask questions...

Does it seem unusual that these two did not ask Jesus even one question? For example, they could have said to him: "who are you?" But on record, the two ask nothing but, again, dropped their "regular work" and followed him. Call it faith, but these two brothers were convinced that their impulse was right.

Fishers of People

What does it mean to fish...for something? It means to prepare, to seek, and to lure if possible. Just because you fish for something does not mean you'll catch it. On the other hand, you may catch something when you weren't fishing in the first place. But the possibilities of catching fish and catching people are must improved when you prepare, seek and lure. Jesus had prepared (or been prepared), he was seeking and he was luring or attracting people.

Fishing or Faith

They could have refused fearing that to drop their nets (or to cease their regular work) would be their end; but they stepped out on faith in belief that Jesus had more to offer them than the trades or occupations. Peter did have faith...and both would become fishers of people.