



Questions for Application for the Week of November 11, 2013

Part 2 - His Method: People - Matthew 4:18-22

1. Jesus selected four working class fishermen to be among his first disciples (Mt. 4:18). What does Jesus' selection tell you about the kingdom of heaven and how his view of people might differ from your own? What other passages might highlight this "kingdom" view?

2. Peter, Andrew, James, and John had each known Jesus for about a year before he called them to become "fishers of men" (Jn. 1:35-42). We too should experience a growing and deepening relationship with Christ as we spend time with him. What new steps of obedience might Jesus be calling you to? In what ways has your relationship with Jesus changed over time?

3. Many people fail to get involved in church ministry for they fear they "wouldn't know what to do?" or that they are "not ready" in some respect. In what ways does Matthew 4:19 contradict the notion that we need to be skilled or prepared before we can be of service to Jesus? Have you ever used that excuse in the past and how can this passage (and church history!) encourage you?

4. These men radically reorganized their lives and placed Jesus at the center. This was not a step of obedience expected only of the twelve, but is the call to everyone who would come after him (Mk. 8:34-36). Is there something that you hold very dear (a person, a dream or possession) that is inhibiting your walk with Christ? What might you need to sacrifice or how might you need to reorganize your life to better align yourself with Jesus?

5. As you reflect on Matthew 4:18-22, how would you have responded had Jesus interrupted your workday and demanded you to follow him? How might this passage cause you to think differently about the separation between your public and private life and what practical steps could you take this holiday season to erase any divide?