

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Jesus Is the King Series, Lesson 36

Lesson Title: The King and His Men

Take Home Point: Follow Jesus and be fishers of men.

Warm-Up:

Imagine that you have reared your many children to responsible adulthood, perhaps even assisting other children through programs such as Big Brother/Big Sister. You know you didn't do a perfect job, but you now have this store of understanding and knowledge about what it takes. One day you get a phone call; it's the mayor, who says, "We want to offer new parents education in how to raise their children, and we want you to be one of our mentoring teachers." Just what you have been waiting for! How do you respond? "Well, Mayor, I appreciate the offer but no thank you. I just like reflecting on what I did and the experience I have." No, you answer the call because you believe it will help your community, and your world, be a better place.

Read: Matthew 4:18-25

Observation (What happened?):

How soon did Simon, Andrew, James, and John leave their nets and boats to follow Jesus when he called them?

What did Jesus do after he called his disciples?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think the four disciples followed Jesus immediately when he called them?

What did Jesus mean when he said he would teach them how to catch people instead of fish?

Insight:

We get another look at this same event in Luke 5:1-11. Take a few moments to read it. No wonder the four were willing to follow Jesus! But it was probably more than just the catch of fish that made them go immediately. These were young men who saw a world that needed change. That day they heard Jesus teach and experienced the amazing catch of fish, so when he called them they decided they wanted to be part of his changing the world. It involved catching people for God. Isn't it interesting that this is what Jesus told his disciples at the very beginning of his public ministry, and also at the very end (Matthew 28:19 and Acts 1:8)? "Catch people for me. Go and make disciples." That's our job, too, and Jesus calls us to answer immediately and do it.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Who among your family, friends, or co-workers is God telling you to talk to about Jesus?

Pray for God to increase your compassion for others and to help you recognize opportunities to "fish" as they arise.