

The Transformation of His Call Matthew 4:18-22

A God takes the initiative

Ø In calling the disciples

Unlike other religious teachers, Jesus took the initiative to call his disciples.

Ø In calling Abraham

There are similarities between this call to become disciples and the call of Abraham (Gen 12:1-4). Abraham was to engage in mission, and so too were they.

Ø In calling me

How I became a Christian, through a 'Psalm 8' experience.

Ø In calling you

God calls everyone – not all respond.

B The people Jesus called to be disciples

Ø Galilean Fishermen

Jesus first called Peter and Andrew, and then James and John. These first disciples were Galilean fishermen (4:18, 21). The command, *Come, follow me ... I will make you fishers of men* (4: 19), created a crucial moment in their lives. He called other ordinary people too.

Ø Ordinary people

It was these ordinary men (and women) whom Jesus chose – and they later were to turn the world upside down.

Ø Called to be fishers of people

A fisherman already possesses the right qualities which enable him to be a good fisher of men & women. He must have:

- patience.
- perseverance
- courage
- an eye for the right moment
- fit the bait to the fish
- keep himself out of sight.

C Jesus calls us today

Ø We too can be transformed

That call transformed the lives of Peter and Andrew, James and John and the

other disciples. (2 Corinthians 5:17).
What changes can we expect in our lives when we respond to the call of Jesus?

Ø A new start

We become a child of God (John 1:12), 'born again' (John 3:3), as Jesus put it.

Ø How can we be sure of our call?

There are three things that particularly help us.

1. The Word of God

We must not trust our feelings, but rely instead on God's promises:

"I will come in" (Revelation 3:20)

"I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20)

"I give them eternal life" (John 10:28)

Story of the three cats walking on a wall.

2. The Work of Jesus

- God loves us and Jesus died to prove it (John 3:16)
- In dying, he took our sins upon himself (Isaiah 53:6) (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- He rose again to show that he had won the victory over sin & death

3. The Witness of the Spirit

God's Holy Spirit comes to dwell within us (Romans 8:9).

a) He transforms us from within

- 'the fruit of the Spirit' (Gal 5:22, 23)
- We care for others in a new way

Which of the following changes have you already experienced in your life?

- new love for God
- desire to read the Bible
- sense of forgiveness
- new concern for others
- enjoyment of worshipping God
- desire to meet with other Christians
- confidence in sharing what Jesus means to us
- power to do things that previously we would have thought impossible

b) He brings a deep, personal conviction that I am God's child (Rom 8:15, 16). What a joy and what a privilege.

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17/02/08

Matthew 4: 18-22 (NIV)

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.

¹⁹ "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

²⁰ At once they left their nets and followed him.

²¹ Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them,

²² and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

A Prayer of Commitment

Lord Jesus Christ,

I am sorry for the things I have done wrong in my life.

(Take a few moments to ask his forgiveness for anything particular that is on your conscience)

Please forgive me. I now turn from everything which I know is wrong.

Thank you that you died on the cross for me so that I could be forgiven and set free.

Thank you that you now offer me this gift of forgiveness and your Spirit. I now receive that gift.

Please come into my life by your Holy Spirit to be with me forever.

Thank you, Lord Jesus.

Amen.