

## THE LORD'S FISHERMEN

Matthew 4:18-22

By Raymond White

*Matthew 4:18* And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. **:19** And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. **:20** And the straightway left their nets, and followed him. **:21** And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. **:22** And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.

Jesus had his choice of men. He said (*John 15:16*) *Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you.* Well, if he had his choice, why did he choose fishermen? Why did he not instead choose rabbis? Or scribes? Or lawyers? Or politicians? — people with clout, movers who could get things done in a hurry and jumpstart a fledgling movement. When he chose his inner circle of personal friends and confidants, those who would soon bear the responsibility for the success or failure of the new church, what drew the Lord to fishermen? Maybe Jesus was looking for special qualities. Three come to mind.

### [1] FISHERMEN ARE PATIENT

If any virtue typifies fishermen, it is patience. They wait and wait, endlessly it seems, for fish to bite. Without patience, fishermen simply cannot catch fish, nor can they catch souls.

*Luke 8:15* Bring forth fruit with patience.

### [2] FISHERMEN ARE BRAVE

The Breton Fisherman's Prayer reads, "Oh God thy sea is so great and my boat is so small" which succinctly describes the hazardous sea and how fishermen feel about it. The sea of Galilee is noted for its sudden and violent storms and only the brave venture out onto its deadly waves. The Lord called such men to an even more perilous work, the work of the gospel.

*1 Corinthians 16:13* Quit you like men, be strong!

### [3] FISHERMEN ARE IMPARTIAL

Fishermen are not hunters. They don't line up their sights on their target of choice. Hunters pick their query. Fishermen don't have that luxury, they take whatever happens into their net.

*John 6:37* Him that cometh to me I will in no way cast out.

There's a lot to be said for fishermen. Be a fisherman. Fish for souls.