

John

“They were Called”



“And John answered and said, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name; and we forbad him, because he followeth not with us. And Jesus said unto him, Forbid him not: for he that is not against us is for us.” Luke 9:49-50.

“Well, fishing for fish was a very good job. We were very successful in that vocation on most days, but one day a man named Jesus came up to my brother and me, John, and told us that he wanted to make us ‘fishers of men.’ We were aware of His wonderful ministry and how important it was at the time, although looking back I can see that I didn’t even have the slightest inclination of what was happening! I was very blessed, but I also knew that this meant that I had to work hard, so sometimes, I got a little eager! I have been called ambitious, and I don’t take that as a negative way of describing me. Sometimes, Christ had to reprimand me in a nice way. That was fine. I knew that He loved me or He wouldn’t have cared. Sometimes I acted without thinking things through completely. But I know that I was a doer, and Jesus knew it too. I was another one of those called Son of Thunder along with my brother James.

“When it was time for the Passover feast Jesus sent Peter and me into the city. He said a man carrying a pitcher of water would be there and we were to follow him and he would take us to the home where we would eat the Passover. Sure enough the man was there and led us to a room for the feast.

“I was fishing when Jesus told us to cast our nets on the other side and we could hardly haul in the fish that we had in our net, and I spent time in prison. But that was nothing compared to what some of the other men went through. I was called the beloved disciple and I had the honor of Jesus asking me to take care of His mother while He was hanging on the cross.

“Then I, along with the other disciples, had the privilege of seeing Christ after He rose. He met with us several times and told us what we were to do. When He told us that He would come again, we thought He meant within a few days, just like He had risen from the grave. We still didn’t comprehend what He was saying, but we followed in blind faith and that has made all the difference. Yes, I was may be overly ambitious but I learned and had a wonderful life traveling and watching the change in people as they came to know My Lord and Saviour. I hope you know Him too.”

Prayer: Heavenly Father, You have given all of us many gifts, some we don’t even realize we have until we are called upon to use them. Help us to be thankful for those talents, and then help us to use them to further Your work on this earth just as Christ used the disciples with their varied temperaments and talents.

1. Can we ever be too eager to act?
2. How can we discover our talents in the Lord’s work, and also help others discover and use their talents?
3. Do we have spiritual gifts? Are you using them?

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There is a song sung by children called “I will make you fishers of Men” which was written by Harry D. Clarke. I often wonder if children really understand what it means to be a fisher of men and what most go through their heads as they are singing, or are merely words they memorize with no real meaning to them. Do we understand the words? They are:

“I will make you fishers of men,
Fishers of men, fishers of men.
I will make you fishers of men,
If you follow Me.

Hear Christ calling "Come unto Me
Come unto Me, Come unto Me."
Hear Christ calling "Come unto Me
I will give You rest."

If you follow Me,
If you follow Me,
I will make you fishers of men,
If you follow Me.

"I will give you rest.
I will give you rest.
Hear Christ calling "Come unto Me
I will give you rest."