



Becoming
Fishers of Men

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(Early Galilean Ministry)

Welcome to Jesus Time where we spend time with Jesus in His time and culture.

After being rejected in His hometown of Nazareth- Jesus has now found acceptance within Capernaum. So the Lord begins and spends His summer within this local region known as “Fisherton.”

Christ our Lord’s Ministry was one of preaching & teaching within the local Synagogues as He literally healed by Prayer everywhere he goes and the fame of His name travels before Him.

After that first contentious Passover of Jesus’s public Ministry in Jerusalem, Christ has returned home while journeying through Samaria by which He had what is known today as the “Three Interviews:”

First the good news or Gospel was explained to THE teacher of the Jews Master Nicodemus.

Second Jesus concluded & congratulated John the Baptist for the completion of his service.

While the Third occurred outside of Israel proper with the Samaritan Lady at Jacobs Well.

Outside Israel because the prophet Daniel within his chapter 9 details for us by Divine prophecy the exact date in which GOD’S Messiah would be properly announced and then rejected within Jerusalem.

We will see this event fulfilled to the letter by Christ Jesus when He enters into Jerusalem upon a donkey approximately 3 years hence in what will be remembered as His “Triumphal Entry.”

So that was our recap of where we are at- within this study of the Ministry and human life of our Christ.

Of course here within this first summer of Jesus’s early Galilean Ministry, one of the first thing things that Jesus does is to recall His Disciples from their short home time sabbatical.

By which they were obviously to rest and get their personal affairs in order for their continued service unto Christ, whom unlike Him- were on what we would call a vacation after their recent Passover in Jerusalem.

† ¹⁶ And passing along by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you become fishers of men.” ¹⁸ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zeb’edee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰ And immediately he called them; and they left their father Zeb’edee in the boat with the hired servants, and followed him.

Mark 1:16-20 RSV.

Both sets of these fishing brothers were now Disciples of Jesus awaiting their recall into His service.

“Disciple” in Jesus Time meant a student follower as in a believer. These 2 sets of brothers will ultimately become Christ’s inner circle even amongst the totality of Christ’s by Prayer personally selected 12 Apostles.

Also- we must not omit or miss the point here that unlike Peter and Andrew, whom were mature adult men working as fishing boat owners, that James and John, were much younger and still yet under their father Zebedee’s tutelage & employ as they set out with Jesus unopposed meaning with their fathers blessing.

Remember Zebedee is Jesus’s uncle by marriage unto Salome- the virgin Mary’s younger sister.

Can there be little doubt about the rumors and inuendo Zebedee has now himself accepted as his sons fate with faith concerning Jesus? Because for decades by now he had to have heard of all the details from his wife and sister in law of each Jesus’s immaculate and distant cousin John the Baptist’s miraculous births?

Most likely- after all Zebedee is married to Mary’s sister & think about this; would not a hard working industrious man normally have had a deep natural hesitation about sending off his two sons with a “prophetic miracle worker” unless he too had already seen or heard of Christ’s recent miracles & believed! Yes; this is a supposition but I question how could this not be? Especially within this patriarchal society.

Jesus has just recalled Andrew & Peter, as well as James & John once again into His service.

This time permanently in order to fulfill what will become known as the "Great Commission."
(Matthew 28:16-20) This will commence at our Christ's Ascension into Heaven.

The Great Commission is: "To go and make Disciples (as in student follower believers) of all mankind."

So, this is what it means when Jesus tells these 4 fishermen that for the remainder of their days they will be fishing not of food for personal gain, but rather for the lost Souls of mankind in Jesus' name.

Notice; "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men." This is for them and for us, the dedicated Disciple of Jesus our Lord, a standing understanding of our mission statement being ever more than a request because by Christ- because this is a demand of the Great I AM as in a command.

But first for these fishermen, each soon to become an Apostle which means chief Disciple, there is much to learn by experience, and to learn from Jesus- ultimately with time to discern, with Prayer and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This be in order to be able to share the lessons of the life of Christ- being Messiah Jesus through them His Disciples with all of us Sinners living in a broken fallen world.

Jesus had to "live it and then give it"- His life as our Christ, and His Disciples will have too "prepare it and share it." Their testimony of Jesus composed within the four Gospels.

Also Christ's Words to "follow me" was known as a teaching tool employed by the Jewish Rabbis.

In Jesus Time a teacher would use the words follow me as in not just physically but intellectually and in our case for the Faith professing Christian, Spiritually- as in our belief is paramount.

"Having went alone unto His own", this be Jesus- (John 1:11)

His family & friends alike had been amongst the first given a choice of believing in Him as Christ.

Personally by Jesus Himself. Thusly they; His family & neighbors, had denied and subsequently have lost their chance of becoming the inner circle of Jesus Christ's Ministry. Think about that.

This be Why? Neither Jesus's half brothers nor His sisters, ever later after the cross claimed a fame of being related by blood unto Jesus name. Not even James known as "the Just" who was himself as tradition holds an expert upon Jewish Law.

James who was Jesus's half brother and a future leader of the Jerusalem Christian Church, this being later upon Peter's absence- never once made any reference, or inference, nor did he ever take credit of his human blood being common by their mother Mary with Christ Jesus.

Why? because he too had denied Jesus in Nazareth after Jesus returned from that first public Passover.

Get That? James- as in the New Testament Didactic (Moral instruction) within his Epistle (Letter) which is one of my favorite books in the Bible, at times at least for me, James almost seems to be an echo of the morality and teachings of Christ our Lord.

This is because James was not only an expert upon Jewish Law, he also had a lifetime of growing up and hearing the values of Christ Jesus his older brother especially after the loss of Joseph, James father and Jesus's human step father. Get that? The Book of James for me seems to be from Jesus's Family.

But as such- Jesus's brother, James never dares to credit himself for this fact due to his not coming to Faith in Jesus as his Messiah- as his Savior, of & is GOD- until after Christ's resurrection & ascension. Thusly forcing him to reconsider and keep his reverent silence because he knew Christ was also Divine.

It was now time, Jesus Time- because the fame of Christ's name as a Miracle worker was spreading out of control like a wild fire, and just as out of control was the Son of man Himself- before the Pharisee's with His teachings and preaching which were by now openly opposing the Jewish religious elite.

So now it begins- Jesus's summer of consideration, it will be hot & mingled with the mugginess of contention and controversy soon to be followed by Autumn when confrontation will fall upon all.

Continuing

✠ And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. ²² And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. ²³ And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ²⁴ “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” ²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶ And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷ And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸ And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

Mark 1:21-28 ESV (Dr. Luke 4:31-37 does Parallel)

Lets examine these passages one by one:

Vs 21 Note scripture says they went into the Synagogue of Capernaum. This has to be Jesus with brothers Peter/Andrew & James/John with their families while it says only He- as in Jesus was teaching.

Vs 22 In Jesus Time preachers preached as in ordained and teachers taught as in not ordained. The scribes did a lot of the actual teaching of GOD’S Law, but they only recited it very dryly and without any opinion or even including the commentary of the Pharisee’s because they were not permitted to do so. Jesus was not only reading it He was also fully explaining scripture while He was claiming it was about Him!

Vs 23-24 Did you notice that the demonic had not only come to Church, but that evil had recognized Christ Messiah from Heaven having been from Heaven this demon previously was. (until demonic rebellion)

The evil one then panicked and cried out because it was afraid that the Kingdom of GOD was at hand meaning its eternal judgement of condemnation being its forever separation from true life had arrived.

Also when the demonic said to Jesus; “have You come to destroy us” was this in reference to all of the fallen? or an admission that more than one (plural) demons were inside this specific man?

Of course Jesus ordered the fallen now demonic former angel to be silent for two reasons:

First- it was not yet time for Jesus to reveal Himself unto Israel as too the date that was set for His official proclamation of Him being the Christ within the prophecy of Daniel chapter 9.

Second- the native tongue of the demonic is deception.

Jesus saw no need to allow the demon to deceive.

Vs 25-26 Not only was Jesus claiming the scriptures and explaining them as no other had ever before, the Lord was now known for healing and having an intuition of knowing about people and circumstances. As Jesus read with authority upon GOD’S Word the demonic trembled and revealed their presence & not only that- the demons fled in silence just as Jesus commanded. Think about the impact of that.

Vs 27 A new teaching and with the authority of GOD that was noticed by all present.

Including the demonic who fled in obedience with fear at the Words of Jesus Christ.

Again the new teaching was that all had to repent and be born again Spiritually to enter GOD’S Kingdom. Even the Jew- the caretakers and Heavenly assigned presenters of GOD’S Holy Word.

Continuing

✠ Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. ²⁴ News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them. ²⁵ Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

Matthew 4:23-25 NIV

Decapolis was not an individual city but a confederation of 10 cities that were of Greco-Roman influence and affluence being Hellenistic in custom within the Transjordan area south of the Sea of Galilee including Damascus and Philadelphia.

Philly is found within Revelation chapter 3 as our example of a faithful believer within a faithful Church. In Jesus Time within the Decapolis region there was a shameful pagan worship practice unto a false g*d called Asclepius. Asclepius was supposed to be the son of Apollo by a human mother named Coronis. For the record; today a company named Coronis is one of the worlds largest medical billing corporations while also being a leading third party medical or labor outsourcing provider.

All named Coronis after the fictional mother of a false deceiving unhealing pagan g*d. Sad but true. As such Asclepius was supposedly taught medicine and healing by Centaur Chiron who was by legend what we would call today a male mermaid.

It was taught in ages past that attractive female Sea spirits would entice and attract human males so they- the Centaur/Mermaids could consume them as food.

You know; a reversed fishing lore, as in Sinful enticing living bait and then eating the foolishly captured.

Get That? From the very beginning all the way back to Nimrod and the Tower of Babel found within Genesis chapter 11; satan- has built false religion by superstition upon tradition, around the very prophecies of GOD'S coming Messiah generation by generation.

As such Asclepius was a false deity giving only manipulating false hope.

You see for a fee- if you were sick, you could stay overnight in a pagan temple and if you fell asleep and dreamed that you were healed, then supposedly Asclepius would make it so.

Ok as for the origin & the conclusion of all false religion by superstition of tradition, you can find on the "Wintersville United Methodist Church" (Ohio) YouTube account.

Search for the Revelation series chapter 18 to be specific. Now moving on,...

Yes, Jews and even Gentiles from different locations within the Roman Empire were already flocking to hear and see for themselves the good shepherd. Now fame was the name- of Messiah Jesus, the Christ.

Meaning the true Son (human) of GOD, from the real one & only Holy GOD- Jehovah has arrived!

& as prophesized: Christ Jesus is Divine as Deity and human forever by birth.

No more deception no more lies "The" Messiah is Alive!!

Just as the Prophets of GOD'S Word has foretold.

Don't believe it, then Go- see Him for yourself, as He teaches & preaches throughout all of Galilee. & the proof is; He heals supernaturally, instantly spontaneously on the spot.

Without cost & without fee by GOD'S mercy.

All that He asks of you- is that you believe in Him and then He will set you free.

Free from yourself as in from your own Sin before The Holy Eternal Almighty Creating Jehovah GOD.

Continuing

✠ And when it was day, he (Jesus) departed and went into a desert place: and the people sought him, and came unto him, and stayed him, that he should not depart from them. ⁴³ And he said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent. ⁴⁴ And he preached in the synagogues of Galilee. Luke 4:42-44 KJV

As Jesus and the Disciples traveled within Galilee:

✠ Now it happened that while the crowd was pressing around Him and listening to the word of God, He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret; (Greek name of Sea of Galilee aka Tiberius by Rome)² and He saw two boats lying at the edge of the lake; but the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. ³ And He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little distance from the land. And He sat down and continued teaching the crowds from the boat. ⁴ Now when He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵ Simon responded and said, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will do as You say and let down the nets." ⁶ And when they had done this, they caught a great quantity of fish, and their nets began to tear; ⁷ so they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both of the boats, to the point that they were sinking. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw this, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" ⁹ For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken; ¹⁰ and likewise also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not fear; from now on you will be catching people." ¹¹ When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him. Luke 5:1-11 NASB

Notice here these verses above on this page from chapters 4 & 5 of Dr. Luke appear to be out of order as compared to the timeline of Jesus's Ministry, this is until you realize the key words of "Now it happened" as in happenstance of circumstance. Divine providence of coincidence? You decide.

What is going on here is that Peters fishing fleet and his employees are actually crossing paths with Jesus and His Disciples including Simon/Peter as Jesus preached and taught around the Sea of Galilee.

I once heard a child reading scripture pronounce Disciples as Disciplines and that is a very astute description of how all of us- Disciples of Messiah Jesus should be. Each of us Disciplined in the conduct of our behavior and studious in Prayer of dedication. As in Disciplined Disciples of the Lord.

Ok Get that? Dr. Luke is telling us of a time when the fishing fleet of Peter out doing their work by chance- had caught up with Jesus and His not so as of yet Disciplined Disciples including Peter, somewhere along the shores of Galilee in the summertime of this first year of Jesus's public Ministry.

The fishermen Disciples traveled and attended the Lord this day and later that night they reminisced and explained Jesus to their employees. This was no doubt intended for them to carry the good Gospel news of Christ's Ministry back home to their families while they all worked together fishing that night away.

Here we have recorded within the Gospels a moment in which John, James, Andrew and Peter's pride was humbled and broken. You see by their own skill, strength, experience, & resources- after they had encountered their own fishing employees they had fished all night upon the Sea of Galilee. And yet they all had returned to shore exhausted and empty handed.

When the scriptures record that it was morning and the fishermen were washing their nets, this means cleaning them by removing any debris such as twigs, sand, or pebbles. This was also when the boats were maintained and the nets were mended if any rips or damage were to be found.

The Pharisees by Rabbinic tradition had many rules of course upon the fish.

Fresh, dried, salted, or pickled. The latter was made into a relish or even used as a cooking sauce. Big fish were strung upon a string of twine while smaller fish were placed into baskets.

It was forbidden for certain types of fish to be cleaned by water, so beer or wine was to be used by Law. The obvious answer here is one could tell right away if the fish had been washed clean and alcohol is a natural preservative that kills bacteria and mold. Useful in the hot Middle East.

The "Fish" Gate in Jerusalem and the market within imported many types of fish from many places from as far away as Egypt or even Spain. Fish was exported dried & salted or pickled all over the Roman Empire- however it was the fish from Galilee that held the lion's share of the Jerusalem market.

Some members of the Jerusalem Sanhedrin actually owned the large ocean going ships or the overland camel or cart caravans used for the transport of fish stock. Now back to our Scripture:

Crowds of people eager to hear and see Jesus for themselves were pressing in upon Christ. So here at this time & place- Lord Jesus deliberately led them to the spot in which He knew His Disciples would be coming ashore from their toilsome and informative night of fishing.

Even at this very early hour the crowds were so large that Jesus knew if He simply set out upon the water in one of Peter's boats a short distance from the shore the crowd once they had settled down they could all listen to Jesus preach and teach the Living Word of GOD.

In this manner all present could hear the Lord well because water is an excellent conductor of sound either in or on top of the water. You know; fishermen for generations have learned to be quiet as to not scare off the fish. Maybe Peter and the Disciples had talked too much that night!

Get that? The Lord often uses what and who is available for Him to present His Gospel Truth.

Be it in person, print, radio, TV, or internet- including even Peter's boats upon the Sea of Galilee!

Now after Peter and the other Disciples' fishing boats had actually been of use for the Lord- after speaking Jesus used this opportunity to demonstrate His authority unto His Disciples as Deity.

The Lord knew His Disciples were weary and had been disappointed even with all their skill and efforts they had come in with empty nets. You see they had went out fishing that night because they had perceived their collective need for resources and to provide for their families back home.

So, Christ Jesus asked Peter to set out into the deeper water and then lower his nets once again.

Of course we have here Peter's recorded protest: "We have fished all night & have caught nothing."

Get that? The inference of Peter's words unto Jesus.

Peter's answer was implying but Lord we are expert fishermen we know what we are doing-

We have worked all night meaning they knew they had worked at the right time in the right place to catch fish. All true. But by their own strength & experience they had not succeeded.

However then Peter and the Disciples did do something correctly.

They obeyed the Word of the Lord, even when everything they knew about fishing told them it was not possible to catch fish at this time.

Make no mistake by human strength it was impossible to catch fish at this spot at this time.

So, when- Peter's nets filled to the bursting point it was Peter's inward doubts and reasons that were burst through. Because he knew. He already did know -but this was personal now.

That Jesus is Divine. Christ had just proved it by filling Peter's nets impossibly at this time.

Peter was overcome by a sense of Jesus's Deity and at his own actual smallness due to his Sin.

Did you ever wonder how GOD achieves His purposes even when the actual monetary cost seems to be a hopeless loss?

Think about it- with this haul of fish at this place, meaning Peter's employee crew being here actively fishing they had to have a port of call to sell it all.

As such this great catch of fish miraculously provided the monies needed for each Jesus's Ministry and for the soon to be dedicated Disciples fishermen families back home.

Also did you notice? The Disciples old way of life no longer worked for them once called by the Lord.

Get that? Their former way of living no longer produced the same results for them as it did before.

Call it a loss of fisherman's luck or simply the Lord had closed that door in their lives.

All of this and more was overwhelming to Peter- a family man with a business who must have had the weight of the world upon his shoulders as too his business affairs and absence from his family.

This be until the Lord fulfilled Peters, Johns, Andrews, & James actual obligations supernaturally.

All while reminding them as too their new commission of occupation was one of Salvation.

As in them becoming dedicated disciplined Disciples offering the good news of the Gospel of Jesus our Christ to everyone. Including us.

Ladies & Gentlemen, Brothers & Sisters of Christ, we are all to be fishers of (wo)men.

Praise Jesus Amen!