

2. Gone Fishing

Mark 1:14-39

Introduction

Have you ever gone fishing? Where do you go fishing? How successful were you at it? Do you enjoy it?

In chapter 1 of Mark four men are invited to go fishing with Jesus. Jesus went to the Sea of Galilee and invited four professional fishermen to leave everything and join him and learn to fish for men. In this study we are going to explore what fishing for men involved for the Master fisherman by looking at his ministry in Galilee. Please read Mark 1:14-39.

Fishing for men

The Lord Jesus moved his ministry from in the south, where he had been baptised, to the north and started fishing for men. When he invited Simon and Andrew to follow him, he explained that he would also make them fishers of men (1:17). Presumably this is because this was what he was doing in Galilee. Please read 1:14-20

1. What kind of fishing were Simon and Andrew and James and John involved in? What did they use and how was it carried out?

2. How was the Lord Jesus gathering people into the kingdom of God (1:14-15; c/f 1:38)?

3. What was his message?

Think about it

These professional fishermen were to leave behind their nets and join the Lord Jesus in the work that he was doing in Galilee. The Lord Jesus was fishing for men. He was gathering people into the kingdom of God by preaching the good news of God.

What is that people need to repent of?

What is it that people need to believe?

The disciples left behind their nets and followed Jesus when he called for them to follow him. What do people need to leave behind today in order to follow Jesus?

Fishing in Galilee

Mark shows us what involved in fishing for men in Galilee by providing us an example of what went on in Capernaum. Please read verses 21 to 34 to understand more about fishing for men.

4. Where did Jesus go on the Sabbath and what did he do there?

5. Why did the news of Jesus quickly spread through the region of Galilee?

6. How did the mother of Simon get better?

7. Why did the whole town gather at the door of the house of Simon?

Think about it

What was involved in the fishing ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ?

What do we learn about Jesus and his concern for people?

The Lord Jesus would not allow the demons to speak. Why do you think he demanded silence from them?

Fishermen often have their favourite spots which they return to time and time again. In the case of the Lord Jesus he was not content to remain in the one spot. Please read verses 35 to 39.

8. Why did Simon and his companions go looking for Jesus?

9. Why did Jesus refuse to go back with his disciple at this point in his ministry?

Think about it

This section of Mark's gospel ends with a summary statement about the work that the Lord Jesus did throughout Galilee. The work that he did in Capernaum was only one example of what he did in the towns and villages of Galilee.

What was the pattern that the ministry of Jesus followed throughout Galilee?

Why would it have been necessary for the Lord Jesus to drive out demons if he was to gather people into the kingdom of God?

What place did prayer seem to have for Jesus?

Conclusion

With the kingdom coming near the time had come for people to get ready and to be gathered into the kingdom of God. It was time go fishing. Today the fishing continues. In his second letter Simon Peter explains that the Lord has extended the time because he is patient and is giving more and more people an opportunity to repent (c/f 2 Peter 3:8-9). The Lord Jesus still call his disciples to be fishers of men.

Think about it

How can we be involved today in the work of getting people ready for the kingdom?

In what way can we be distracted by other things from this key work?

Why is there more to fishing for men than just gathering a crowd around you?

What do we learn about fishing for people from this story? What things are we called to be doing?