



“Following the Fisher of Men”

Matthew 4:12-25

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

D.A. Carson, *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Matthew*, 2010.

Daniel M. Doriani, *Reformed Expository Commentary: Matthew*, 2008.

William Hendriksen, *New Testament Commentary: Matthew*, 1973.

Tim Keller, *Logos Sermon Archive*.

Grant R. Osborne, *Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament: Matthew*, 2010.

Head: Understanding the Bible

“Therefore, to enter the kingdom [of heaven] is not to cross a border, passport in hand; it is to yield to God's rule or reign. The prayer ‘your kingdom come’ is explained by the next petition, ‘your will be done.’”

~Daniel Doriani, Reformed Expository Commentary

- 1) Read Isaiah 8:21-9:7. God's judgment on Israel in chapter 8 is that those who have rejected Him will live in darkness and anguish. They will look for hope on the earth and find gloom. What does Jesus find in the land of Zebulun and Naphtali? (see Matt. 4:23-25) According to Isaiah 9:3-7, what kind of light and hope is this King bringing?
- 2) Read Matt. 4:18-22. What is surprising about the ‘invitation’ to be Jesus' follower? What is painful and extreme about Jesus' command to follow Him?
- 3) Read Matt. 13:47-49. What is Jesus doing as He recruits followers?
- 4) What is the promise attached to Jesus' command? What transformation should we expect as Jesus followers?

Heart: Using the Gospel on Our Affections

“I my Master have denied, I afresh have crucified, Oft profaned his hallowed name, Put him to an open shame...There for me the Savior stands, shows his wounds and spreads his hands.” ~Charles Wesley, “Depths of Mercy”

5) How is Jesus THE fisher of people? What did it cost Jesus to call his disciples (including you and me) to follow him?

Hands: Applying the Gospel to Our Lives

“Amongst many who sought to deter me was one dear old Christian gentleman, whose crowning argument always was, ‘The cannibals! You will be eaten by cannibals!’ At last I replied, ‘Mr. Dickson, you are advanced in years now, and your own prospect is to be laid in the grave, there to be eaten by worms. I confess to you, that if I can but live and die serving and honouring the Lord Jesus, it will make no difference to me whether I am eaten by cannibals or by worms; and in the Great Day my resurrection body will arise as fair as yours in the likeness of our risen Redeemer.’”

~John G. Paton, Missionary to the New Hebrides: An Autobiography

6) What have you sacrificed to follow Jesus? What’s been the cost for you?

7) Describe unbelievers. What do you see? What emotions come out?

8) What training do you need to be a fisher of men? What are your strengths and weaknesses? Where do you feel inadequate?

9) Pray for the Holy Spirit to fill us to have compassion for our neighbors, to make us fishers of people.