

March 26. The First Disciples

by J.R. Miller

Transcript

"As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen." Matthew 4:18

When Christ wants men for important positions â€” He never looks for them among idlers. He always seeks in the ranks of busy people, among those who are at their posts and are faithfully doing their duty. When the Lord wanted a man to be the deliverer of His people â€” He found Moses tending sheep in the wilderness. When He sought for a man to be king over Israel â€” He found a shepherd lad watching over his flocks. When He wanted a man for a prophet â€” He found Elisha at his plough. When Jesus needed men to become apostles, to lay the foundation of the Christian Church â€” He walked by the sea and sought for them among those who were busiest.

No doubt there were many idlers loitering along the shore that day, lounging among the boats and watching those who were at work; but Jesus did not call any of these to be His apostles. He did not want for His apostles â€” idle men or those whom their neighbors did not care to employ; so He passed by all the loungers, and kept His eye on the men who were at work. He must have men of activity, men of energy and earnestness â€” and He knew where to look for them.

We ought not to lose this lesson. If we want Christ to call us to important places â€” we must be busy and active, that when He comes seeking for people to do His work â€” He will see that we are competent and worthy.

We should notice also that Christ often calls those who are engaged in lowly pursuits. If we think our occupation unworthy of us, the way to rise to a better one is to be faithful and diligent where we are, until we are called to a nobler and worthier pursuit. It is to him who is faithful in little things â€” that the charge of greater things is promised. He who does not well fill the lower place â€” is wanted neither by God nor by men for the higher place.

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