

LESSON III

Egermeier's Story:

Page 386 – Many Fish

Page 387 – Fishermen Leave Their Nets

Memory Verse: John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” NASB

Scripture: Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-38; Luke 5:1-11

Teaching Resource:

Bible Study Guide for All Ages Lesson 32

Object Lesson:

Think of an activity children the age you are teaching have not yet done. Examples could include hitting a ball, reading, tying a shoe, or someday, driving a car. Explain to them that by observing others do this new activity or by an adult helping them do the activity, they gain confidence that they too can learn the new skill. While on a much larger scale, in the same way adults instill confidence in children to do new tasks, Christ was showing the apostles they, too, would do great things through God's power.

Doctrinal Emphasis: Kingdom of God

Key Theme: *God uses events in life to prepare us to do His work.*

The Bible references two kingdoms, the kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven. The kingdom of heaven speaks to any empire God may have on earth at a given point in time. Examples include the theocratic kingdom when God appointed judges and patriarchs, the announced kingdom through the ministry of John the Baptist and Christ and eventually the millennial kingdom ushered in by the second coming of Christ, marking the close of the seven year tribulation. The kingdom of God, on the other hand, extends to all intelligences (man and angels) in heaven or on earth who are willingly subject to God.

The announced earthly kingdom was eventually rejected when the Jewish people did not recognize Christ as the Messiah and crucified Him. Matthew was written to the Jewish people and emphasized the kingdom of heaven. Israel

viewed entrance into the kingdom of heaven as achieved by their individual righteousness. Matthew 5:20 is an example of this: “For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 8:12; 24:50-51; 25:28-30 declare that “the children of the kingdom” may be cast out. This however cannot be applied to the kingdom of God and its members (John 3:18). Applying kingdom of heaven passages to us leads to confusion and contradiction with teachings meant for the Church, which aligns with the kingdom of God.

In today’s story, Christ was teaching the apostles they would become fishers of men. He used miracles (catching an abundance of fish in a place and at a time these fishermen knew fishing conditions were poor) to convince the apostles Christ would enable them to do what is impossible with man but achievable with God. The apostles had to be prepared to lay the foundation for evangelizing men who would become members of the kingdom of God. Entrance into the kingdom of God is by birth from above (John 3:1-16), whereas the Jew of Christ’s day anticipated an earthly kingdom with entrance based on righteousness. **Christ used these miracles to change the minds and beliefs of the apostles so they could do the necessary work to usher in the Church Age.** Belief in the gospel message installs believers as citizens of the kingdom of God.

Chafer Systematic Theology, Book VII, pages 223-224