

FISHERMEN DISCIPLES

Rev. Norman H. Reuter

Lesson: Luke 5:6

Once when the Lord was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers named Peter and Andrew casting a net in the sea to catch fish because they were fishermen.

Do you remember what the Lord said to them? He said, "follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." And they left their nets and followed Him. Then going on a little further, He saw two other brothers named James and John. They were mending their nets. The Lord called to them also and asked them to follow Him, and they did. (Matthew 4:19-22). These four fishermen disciples, and others, followed the Lord from that time on.

You remember that in our story from Luke, the Lord told the fishermen to row out into the sea and let down their nets for a lot of fish to be caught in them. Well, the disciples had been fishing all night and had not caught a single fish, but because the Lord told them to, they went out and fished again. To their amazement they caught hundreds of fish; so many that they needed help to get them all pulled into the boat.

Why do you suppose that it was Peter, James and John who were able to get all those fish by pulling their nets together and helping each other? Why did it have to be these disciples?

Well, Peter means in the internal sense of the Word believing in the Lord, or faith, the sight of truth. James stands for love of the neighbor, charity, an internal affection of good. And John means our love for the Lord. And in order for us to do anything good that really is good, we have to try to have these three qualities in us. But what about Andrew? He was also a fisherman disciple. Well, Andrew stands for obeying the Lord and doing the right thing or what we are told to do because we should.

So, thinking of these three things and Andrew as Peter's brother, or Simon as the name Peter first had, we can see that doing nice things for others with what we have or know because the Lord would like us to, is very much like those patient good disciples that the Lord caused to catch many, many fish.

And when we learn things in school about nature or about the sea or the air, let us think about the Lord creating or making everything, and that He had reasons for all that He did or made and does. In fact, did you know that everything that the Lord made is good for something, and can be used for

something helpful and useful?

Fish for instance, are good for food, medicine, fuel, fertilizer, chemicals, jewelry, sewing, study and many other things. There is a cactus plant that grows in the southwest that can be used for a hundred different things. Oil and metal can be used for thousands of things. So it is with everything that the Lord has created. There are very often many uses for all of them.

And what about our own minds? Think of all of the things that we can learn and store up in our minds. As many things as there are fish in the sea. And when we use those things that we have learned and work together nicely with those we should and play nicely with our young friends, then that too is like following the Lord's commandment, casting our net on the right side of our little ship and hauling in many, many fish. *Amen.*