

CALLING THE FISHERS OF MEN

Have you ever felt as if there is nothing exciting God can do with your ho-hum, ordinary life? Throughout history, God has often chosen the most ho-hum, ordinary lives with which to do the most extraordinary things. God's marvelous work in history, you see, does not depend upon the amazingness of the people he chooses to work through. Rather, God's astonishing work in history is all about how incredible he is.

The most spectacular event in the whole of history was the work that Jesus did on the Cross. Now, Jesus is God the Son. For God is three Persons in one God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. When Jesus—who has always been God the Son—was born on earth to his mother Mary, it was a miracle. Inside the womb of a young Jewish woman, Jesus became both fully God and fully human—the Son of God, our Savior.

During his roughly three-year ministry, Jesus was followed by people everywhere he went. Some people

who heard Jesus speak were interested only in the miracles he did, while others hoped he would lead a violent revolution to free Israel from the rule of the Roman Empire. The Bible often calls the many sincere followers of Jesus his disciples. Yet, Jesus chose just twelve ho-hum, ordinary men to be his special disciples, whom the Bible often refers to as the “Twelve.”

One day, near the beginning of Jesus’ ministry, he was teaching God’s Word as he stood on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, a great big lake right in the middle of the land of the Jewish people. At that time, the former land of Israel was ruled by the Roman Empire, and divided into small regions, each with its own regional



ruler. For instance, Galilee, Judea, and Samaria were each their own region.

As Jesus spoke from the shore of the Sea of Galilee, scores of people were crowding to hear him, pushing Jesus slowly toward the water. Maybe his feet were even wet. Looking around, Jesus saw fishermen from two boats rinsing out their nets. Then Jesus, who is the King of Everything—the fish, the sea, the weather, and even fishermen—climbed into the boat of a man named Peter.

Jesus told Peter to take the boat out a little way from the shore. Sitting down, he taught the people



from the boat. When he finished teaching, Jesus said to Peter, “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch (Luke 5:4).” Now, fishing is not easy. You can’t just call the fish to jump into your nets. “We fished all night, Jesus, and we didn’t catch anything,” Peter said. “But, since it is you, I will let down the nets.” So, Peter, and probably his brother, Andrew, threw the nets over the side.

Nothing with Jesus is ordinary, and he is King of Everything, so we should not be surprised that the nets began to fill with fish. There were so many fish that Peter and Andrew’s nets began to tear under the strain. The brothers jumped up and down, calling for their business partners in the other boat to come and help them. James and John, the sons of Zebedee, quickly threw their nets over the side and hauled the flopping fish into their boat, too.

Once both boats were sinking under the weight of all the fish, Peter fell down in front of Jesus, right there among the flopping, slippery fish. “Leave me, Lord Jesus,” he cried. “For I am a sinful man.” Peter knew that not only was he an ordinary, ho-hum man, he was a sinner, as well. Peter also knew that Jesus is the perfect Son of God.

Jesus said, “Do not be afraid. From now on, you will be catching men (Luke 5:11).” That was the day that Peter, his brother Andrew, and the brothers James and John, left their boats and followed Jesus. They were going to be fishers of men—finders of men and women who will believe in and follow Jesus. They would be anything but ho-hum and ordinary.

