

The Transition from Fish to Men



As we study the Teacher Jesus, we must notice how Jesus molded the apostles into the powerful and bold preachers of God's word. Acts 4:13 says "they observed the confidence of Peter and John." What a contrast that was to the courtyard encounter when a servant girl made Peter crumble in fear (Mt 26:69-70). *"These few men, whose backgrounds were in mundane trades and earthly occupations, had little more than eighteen months' training for the monumental task to which they were called. There*

was no second string, no backup players, no plan B if the Twelve failed" (Twelve Ordinary Men). Without a classroom setting with notes, quizzes and assignments, Jesus developed these common fishermen into fishers of men (Mark 1:17). Just how did Jesus do that?

Three Steps Into becoming the Fishers of Men

- The cultural thinking of the disciples had to change
- The way they always saw others had to change

1. Jesus spent time developing a kingdom _____ among His disciples
 - so many times Jesus was correcting them
 - They wanted to send the children away (Mt 19:13-15)
 - They argued about who was the greatest (Mt 18:1-6)
 - They wanted to send the Canaanite woman away (Mt 15:22-28)
 - They couldn't understand why Jesus would talk to a woman (Jn 4:27)

The Apostles:

- Lacked spiritual _____
- Lacked _____
- Lacked _____
- Lacked _____

2. Jesus _____ the core spiritual principles through His own life

- The value of _____ (Jn 13:12-17)
Jesus was never too busy, too tired, or too selfish to go and help
- The emphasis upon _____ (Jn 4:34; 5:30; 6:38-40)
- The understanding of _____ (Mt 10:24-25a)

3. Jesus placed the Word of God as the _____ piece of His life and ministry (Lk 8:5-8; Mt 19:4)

Many have never seen

- Grace and forgiveness
- Family that is _____ spiritually
- _____ during trials
- Joy that is not based upon _____
- _____ as expressed in the N.T.
- Lives that are _____ upon the word of God
- People that _____ talking about the Bible
- People that are not _____ of death and are even _____ to be on the other side
- Generosity without _____ attached

