

to become ; not suddenly, but by degrees. *Fishers of men.* The challenge of Jesus is to a higher and more difficult task. Sacrifice, companionship, promotion are all involved in the call. *Straightway they forsook their nets.* Note that these raw recruits are capable of making a decision swiftly, unquestionably, completely.

III. THE CALL OF JAMES AND JOHN.—19, 20. *Saw James . . . and John ; a second pair of brothers. In the ship mending their nets ; another busy pair, getting ready for fishing. Straightway he called.* The same test of discipleship applied,—what are you willing to leave behind ? *Left their father Zebedee.* James and John leave with a new master for new work. Zebedee must stay with the old task and the old nets and heavier responsibilities. But there is no word of protest from him. The glory of those who stay with the old nets and the old task is as great as the glory of those who go forth to newer and greater

things. *Hired servants.* Zebedee is not left utterly alone.

Lesson Questions

Why was John put in prison ?
What was the message of Jesus' preaching ?
Why did Jesus wish to have disciples ?

For Further Study and Discussion

1. What was Jesus' estimate of John the Baptist ? (Matt. 11 : 7-19.)
2. What other disciple was called suddenly ? (Mark 2 : 14.)
3. Is every follower of Jesus required to leave all to follow him ?
4. Are we justified in neglecting home duties for social service ?

PROVE FROM SCRIPTURE—That the disciples were sent after men.

SHORTER CATECHISM—Ques. 74.

THE LESSON IN DAILY LIFE (Daily Readings)

Monday—Fishers of men, Mark 1 : 14-20.

Some must leave nets to follow Christ. But some must stay with the nets for Jesus. Can you not see old, white-haired Zebedee looking longingly after Jesus and his departing sons ? But Zebedee fishing for fish is a member of the new firm, Zebedee and Sons, Fishers of Men.

Tuesday—Helping the fishers, Luke 5 : 1-11.

Christ will fill nets, but only after we have launched out into the deep and let down the nets. Faith does not leave everything to God. It leaves nothing to God that it can do itself.

Wednesday—Excuses, Luke 14 : 15-24.

Ruskin says the sin of Judas who sold the Master for thirty pieces of silver is the sin of the world. Two men in the passage said that business was bigger than Jesus. The third said human love was greater. Anything in our life greater than Jesus betrays him.

Thursday—Praying and working for others, James 5 : 13-20.

How often, when one errs from the way, we give the fact a great voice and swift wings. We proclaim it on the housetop, discuss it on the street corner. We forget that he who errs has still a claim on our sympathy and love.

Friday—Paul's ministry, Acts 20 : 17-24.

Paul does not teach that pain is a delusion. He teaches rather that joy is a great reality. Paul and Silas sing at midnight in the prison at Philippi, not because they had no pain from the stripes. They sing in spite of the stripes. None of these things can move Paul from his joy in Christ.

Saturday—Feed the church of the Lord, Acts 20 : 25-35.

What a splendid thing to be able, like Paul, to challenge the world to scrutinize our past. How splendid to be able to say that the great dominating notes of our life and labor are fidelity and love.

Sunday—A good minister of Christ Jesus, 1 Tim. 4 : 6-16.

There are two stages in truth. First, we possess the truth. Then the truth possesses us. Truth cannot be stored in the mind like seed in the granary. Rather, like the seed in the ground, it takes conquering possession of the mind. In this way, we are given wholly to the truth.

A PRAYER

We thank thee, our Saviour, for thy call to join hands with thee in seeking the lost, in persuading wanderers from thee to return to thee, in bringing joy into the lives of those who are now hopeless. Put us for the work. Give to us all the spirit that says, "Woe is me if I preach not the gospel." For thine own name's sake. Amen.