

Just as they had seen a multitude of fishes caught when they obeyed his command, so they should hereafter find abundant success in the winning of souls. Look at the millions in the Church now, think that they have increased from that little company of twelve, and see how the promise has been fulfilled. (5) *He who works for Christ and with Christ shall have abundant success.* There is an analogy between fishing and soul-saving. 1. The sea is the world. 2. The fish are the souls needing salvation. 3. The net is the Gospel. 4. The work requires patience and watchfulness. 5. But the fisher for men is endeavoring not to kill, but to save those whom he catches.

**20. They straightway.** It was not the call of a stranger, but of one whom they already knew and loved, so that they were not suddenly transformed from fishermen to disciples. **Left their nets.** Their nets may not have been worth much, but they were their all, so this was a full surrender. **Followed him.** They lost their hopes of earthly gain, they entered upon a life of hardship, of unpopularity, of persecution, and were at last put to death. But they gained the companionship of Christ, the assurance of faith, the honor of being founders of his Church, and a throne in heaven. (6) *Have you ever given up anything for Christ's sake?* (7) *Our losses are not to be compared with our gains in his service.*

**21. Going on from thence.** During which time the two other fishermen had landed their fish, and were engaged in mending their nets. **James.** He was the elder of the two brothers, and of an ambitious nature, since he probably took the lead in the request for the highest places in the Saviour's kingdom. Mark 10, 35, 41. His work on earth was soon accomplished, and he was the first of the twelve to bear the palm of martyrdom. **John his brother.** The beloved disciple, who penetrated more deeply into the Saviour's teaching than any other of the twelve. He was with Andrew at that earliest meeting with Jesus, and made note of the very hour in the day when first he saw the Lord. John 1, 39. **Zebedee their father.** Of him we know only what is here stated, that he was the father of two apostles of our Lord. From the mention of hired servants (Mark 1, 20) and the acquaintance of his son with the high-priest (John 18, 15) it has been supposed that the family were the better class in society. (8) *What an honor to a father are two sons in the work of Christ!*

**22. Left the ship.** Their decision was prompt and full. But there is no reason to suppose that they abandoned a needy parent, for their father had servants, and their mother afterward was found among those who ministered to Jesus. (9) *The call of Christ is above all the social and earthly demands.*

**23. Jesus went about.** This is a brief account of what is known as "the first tour in Galilee." It probably embraced the region near the Sea of Galilee, and may have required a few weeks or a few months. **Galilee.** This was the northern province of Palestine, extending from Mount Lebanon to Mount Carmel, and from the Jordan to the Mediterranean. Its inhabitants were less cultivated than those of Judea, but were more sincere and open-hearted. The year of Christ's Galilean ministry was that of his greatest popularity. **Teaching.** Not preaching set sermons, but giving instruction by precept and illustration, in a conversational manner. **Their synagogues.** The word means "meeting together," and the institution arose during the captivity in Babylon, when the services of the temple were suspended. It was a meeting for the reading and interpretation of Scripture, for praise, and prayer. Being less formal than the worship in the temple, and being held every-where, it educated the Jews in the word of God, and prepared the way for the Gospel. The synagogue buildings were also used for the local courts, and for the infliction of penalties by scourging. **The gospel.** The word in the original means "good news," or "glad tidings," an appropriate term for the message of salvation. **Healing.** There is a graphic picture of one busy day in this period of this Saviour's ministry in Mark 1, 21-35. His miracles were not his great work, but in a certain sense incidental. They were wrought out of the Saviour's sympathy with human trouble, in order to awaken attention and give authority to his teachings, and as types of his spiritual work. (10) *The healing of the soul is always more important than that of the body.*

**24, 25. All Syria.** The country between Palestine and the Euphrates River. **Possessed with devils.** A strange mania, in which men's bodies were controlled by evil spirits, clearly distinguished here and elsewhere from insanity. **Decapolis.** The ten cities in a district from insanity. **Decapolis.** The ten cities in a district from insanity. **Beyond** strict east and south of the sea of Galilee. **Jordan.** The province of Perea, east of the river Jordan.

#### HOME READINGS.

- M. Jesus in Galilee. Matt. 4, 17-25.  
 Tu. Jesus at the Jordan. John 1, 35-51.  
 W. Jesus at Cana. John 2, 1-11.  
 Th. Jesus in Jerusalem. John 2, 13-25.  
 F. Jesus at Sychar. John 4, 3-26.  
 S. Jesus at Nazareth. Luke 4, 16-31.  
 S. Jesus at Capernaum. Luke 4, 33-44.

#### GOLDEN TEXT.

The people which sat in darkness saw great light.  
 Matt. 4, 16.

#### LESSON HYMNS.

- No. 1, Dominion Hymnal.  
 O for a thousand tongues to sing  
 My great Redeemer's praise.  
 No. 90, Dominion Hymnal.  
 There is work to do for Jesus,  
 Yes, a glorious work to do.  
 No. 91, Dominion Hymnal.

Hark, the voice of Jesus calling,  
 "Who will go and work to-day?"

TIME.—27 A. D.

PLACE.—In Galilee.

RULERS.—Same as before.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Effectual calling.

#### QUESTIONS FOR SENIOR STUDENTS.

1. Calling the Disciples.  
 When did Jesus enter actively upon his work of preaching?  
 Where did he spend his time after the temptation, and before this lesson?  
 Had any disciples before this? John 1, 2.

What fact can you name concerning his movements after the temptation?

When had he first seen Andrew and Peter?  
 Who is commonly believed to have been Andrew's companion at that time?  
 Why should these four men have been so ready to follow this simple call?  
 Had they ever had any teaching concerning Jesus before this call?

#### 2. Teaching the People.

How long had Jesus now been teaching publicly?  
 Where was his first teaching done?  
 What was the character of the teaching he was now doing? Luke 4, 16-31.  
 How did he support his claim that he was the promised Saviour?  
 How widely did his fame extend?  
 Among what classes were his earliest friends?  
 How widely did he travel in this Galilean ministry?  
 Name the ten cities making the ten called Decapolis.  
 Where was the most of his teaching done in this tour? ver. 23.  
 What was the Jewish synagogue?

#### Practical Teachings.

Four men ready to follow Jesus at his call. They are an example to us. What is it? What do their lives teach us?

One word, one promise, "Follow." "I will make you fishers of men." They were enough. But we have all his wondrous words, and the Bible full of promises, and they are not enough. Why?

"He healed them," and to-day he is just the same tender, loving, compassionate Healer.  
 He called four that day. He calls you to-day. He healed multitudes then. He will heal you to-day—if!

#### Hints for Home Study.

1. If you have or can get a Bible with Robinson's Harmony in it, study all the events of Christ's life from last lesson to this as they occurred.