

## Fourth Quarter : Studies in the Lives of Peter and John

**LESSON FOREWORD**—Having studied the first contact of the disciples with Christ, we go on to see that contact become a permanent companionship. The disciples having given their hearts, must now give their lives, for it was Jesus' thought to have with him constantly a small body of men who would be, first, learners, and then evangelists.

## Lesson II.

## FISHERS OF MEN

October 12, 1919

## THE LESSON PASSAGE—Mark 1 : 14-20.

14 Now after that John was put in prison, Je'sus came into Gal'ilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God.

15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand : repent ye, and believe the gospel.

16 Now as he walked by the sea of Gal'ilee, he saw Si'mon and An'drew his brother casting a net into the sea : for they were fishers.

17 And Je'sus said unto them, Come ye after me, and

**GOLDEN TEXT**—Jesus said unto them, *Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.*—Mark 1 : 17.

I will make you to become fishers of men.

18 And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him.

19 And when he had gone a little farther thence, he saw James the son of Zeb'edee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending their nets.

20 And straightway he called them : and they left their father Zeb'edee in the ship with the hired servants, and went after him.

**SENIOR AND HOME DEPARTMENT TOPIC**—Ways of Winning Men to Christ. **ADDITIONAL MATERIAL**—John 2 : 23-25 ; 4 : 5-42 ; Acts 20 : 17-21, 26, 27, 31, 33-35 ; 1 Cor. 9 : 20-22 ; 1 Tim. 4 : 6-16.

## THE LESSON EXPLAINED

**I. THE PREACHING OF JESUS.**—14, 15. *John was put in prison.* John did not fear the face of man, and had sternly rebuked Herod Antipas for his sinful marriage to Herodias, the wife of his brother, Herod Philip. (See Matt. 14 : 3-12.) *Jesus came into Galilee ;* the northern province of Palestine, west of the Jordan. Galilee was a more fruitful field for Christ's ministry than Judea, being remote from Jerusalem and the priests and scribes of that city. *Preaching.* Now that John's work of herald was over, the time had come for Jesus to begin, in a more definite way, his public ministry.

Luke describes his preaching as being with grace, authority and power. *The time is fulfilled.* Three notes in Christ's preaching. *First,* something has ended,—the long period of preparation is closed. *The kingdom of God is at hand.* *Second,* something is near. His message is good news and new news. *Repent... and believe.* *Third,* something is necessary,—a changed mind ready for God's gift. We cannot have a changed

world without having changed hearts and minds.

**II. THE CALL OF SIMON AND ANDREW.**—16-18. *Walked by the sea of Galilee.* A great part of

Christ's ministry of gracious word and wondrous work gathers around the beautiful harp-shaped body of water lying in the hollow of a great depression of the land. *He saw.* Jesus had a loving eye for nature, but never lost sight of men as he passed by. *Simon and Andrew.* These brothers belonged to Bethsaida, but were living at Capernaum. Neither Jesus nor the two brothers had forgotten their first meeting with Christ. *Casting a net.* This was a hand net.



JESUS CALLING THE FISHERMEN

not a drag net. They were busy. This was one qualification for promotion. *They were fishers.* Nothing is more marvelous in the gospel story than that Jesus should seek his disciples here. It shows the supreme value that Jesus placed on qualities of heart and personality. *Come ye after me ;* a sudden call, an absolute call, a masterful call. Jesus commands and demands, instead of inviting and entreating. *Make you*