

Jesus Calls Four Disciples

They forsook all, v. 11. To serve Christ, does not require of us all that we shall leave our homes or give up our possessions. But it does require us to place ourselves every-

thing we have at His disposal. This is expected of every disciple. We are not all called to be apostles, but the spirit of the apostles should be shown by each of us.

TEACHING HINTS

This section contains teaching material for the various grades in the school.

For Bible Class Teachers

Jesus calls Four Disciples—Is the title of the lesson correct? Are four disciples needed?

Peter is the central figure, and the teacher should endeavor to make him a living man to the class. For this purpose let him learn all he can about the Lake of Galilee and the fishing carried on in it. Arouse the interest of the scholars in Peter as a fisherman and in the characteristics of his class, and how far these appear in Peter.

Realize the scene—the crowd pressing on our Lord; the two boats; the fishermen washing their nets; the request to Peter, the owner of one of them, to allow it to be used as a pulpit, Peter probably acting as steersman; his attention and that of the crowd to the message; then finally the command to Peter.

Bring out from his reply the impression already produced on him by his knowledge of our Lord. Use the reply as an instance of Peter's promptitude of speech and of his obedience, and to throw light on his character—ardent, impulsive, frank, outspoken. "At Thy word." Apply this to our daily life, exhibiting its many spheres.

Picture the letting down of the nets—all the men in the boat engaged; the expectation; the large catch: so large that the nets threaten to break. Their partners in the other boat, which had remained nearer the shore, are summoned to their aid; the catch is such that both boats are overloaded and begin to sink.

A miracle has been wrought. Was it a miracle of knowledge, or of power, or of both? Its effect on Peter. His language; did he measure it? Was it really his wish that Jesus should depart from him? Why does he speak of his sinfulness? How was it that this act of power should evoke the thought of his personal unworthiness? His past in-

tercourse with our Lord, perhaps the very address to which he had just been listening, furnishes the explanation. Does he believe himself to be in danger from the presence of Jesus? This is suggested by our Lord's words, "Fear not," and is perfectly conceivable. With Peter, as with so many others, the thought of his own sinfulness may have been bound up with the thought of the certainty of retribution, and he may have felt that he was about to be judged for his sins. Realizing his own unholiness and the holiness of Jesus, he felt himself, as it were, in danger. Perhaps he could give no rational account of the feeling, but its existence seems evident.

Our Lord dispels his apprehensions by his first words, and indicates the new vocation on which he is about to enter. Not only Peter, but James and John as well, obey the call.

Explain the sense in which every Christian must leave all to follow Jesus.

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

Picture Jesus standing on the shore of the Lake of Galilee, surrounded by a great crowd. They were eager to hear Him speak, and perhaps some of them were striving to get near enough to touch Him, that they might be healed of some disease.

Jesus is very willing to do the multitude good. He cannot speak to them all where He stands, and so He gets into a boat, asking its owner to push out a little, so that He can the more easily address those on the shore. Whose boat was this? How had Simon met Jesus, and what new name did He then get? In next Lesson there is a story of a miracle in Simon's house in Capernaum.

The sermon is now over; but, wearied as He is, the work of Jesus is not yet done. He knows—how? was it through His divine wisdom? or had He been told?—that His friends had spent a long night in fruitless