

## Mark 1:16-18, 21-22

### Research: Call of the disciples

16 Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

One of the two, at least, namely, Andrew, had been a disciple of John the Baptist. And the Apostle John “informs us, John 1:40; John 1:42, that they had both before been called to the knowledge of Christ, upon the banks of Jordan, and that the name of *Peter* had been given to *Simon*. And it is probable that, from their first acquaintance with him, they followed Jesus for some time, and went with him to Cana and Capernaum, John 2:3; John 2:12; and afterward to Jerusalem, John 2:13; John 2:17; and tarried with him while he continued in Judea, John 3:22.

(Benson Commentary)

“One day when Jesus was walking along the seashore He saw two men, brothers, names given, by occupation fishers, the main industry of the locality, that tropical sea (800 feet below level of Mediterranean) abounding in fish. He saw them, may have seen them before, and they Him. . .” (Expositor’s Greek Testament).

“Sea of Galilee - This was also called the Sea of Tiberias and the Lake of Gennesareth, and also the Sea of Chinnereth, [Numbers 34:11](#); [Deuteronomy 3:17](#); [Joshua 12:3](#). Its form is an irregular oval, with the large end to the north. It is about 14 miles in length, and from 6 miles to 9 miles in width. It is about 600 feet lower than the Mediterranean, and this great depression accounts for some of its special phenomena. There is no part of Palestine, it is said, which can be compared in beauty with the environs of this lake. Many populous cities once stood on its shores, such as Tiberias, Bethsaida, Capernaum, Chorazin, etc.” (Barnes’ Notes).

17 And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.

“Fishers of men - Ministers or preachers of the gospel, whose business it shall be to win souls to Christ” (Barnes Notes).

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

“Straightway - Immediately - as all should do when the Lord Jesus calls them.

Left their nets - Their nets were the means of their living, perhaps all their property

“Follow him - This is an expression denoting that they became his disciples,” (Barnes’ Notes).

21 And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught.

“And taught - In the synagogue, the presiding elder, after reading the Scriptures, invited anyone who chose to address the people, Acts 13:15. Though our Savior was not a "priest" of the Levitical order or an "officer" of the synagogue, yet we find him often availing himself of this privilege, and delivering his doctrines to the Jews” (Barnes’ Notes).

Gradually, as his ministry grew, the synagogues would not hold the audience and he had to go into the fields to preach.

22 And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.

*Astonished* is *ekplesso* in Greek which means “struck with amazement, amazed, exceedingly struck in the mind.”

*Doctrine* is *didache* in Greek which means “that which is taught, instruction, doctrine; to speak in the way of teaching in distinction from other modes of speaking in public.”

“*authority*: The Greek *exousia*, used other times in Mark, means in general freedom or power to act and in the NT carries the meaning of ‘authority.’ The authority here ascribed to Jesus is that of assurance of truth, commonly attributed to authentic prophets” (*AYB Mark* 212).