

# Minster Bethel Congregational Church (MBCC)

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31/01/2021 -- We are Called.

## Jesus Calls His First Disciples



Next week we will be joining together again for our fortnightly zoom  
"Church & Chat"

This will be a short church reflection with a hymn, reading, (children's activity), prayer,  
"thought for the week" and then a time to chat.

Join us next week at 10 am:

Topic: Church and Chat

Time: This is a recurring meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75124173520?pwd=QVB4WUx6QXg3Y3hQc1NQYkxINmozZz09>

Meeting ID: 751 2417 3520

Passcode: Bethel2021

All lockdown services can be found at: [www.mbccs.co.uk](http://www.mbccs.co.uk)

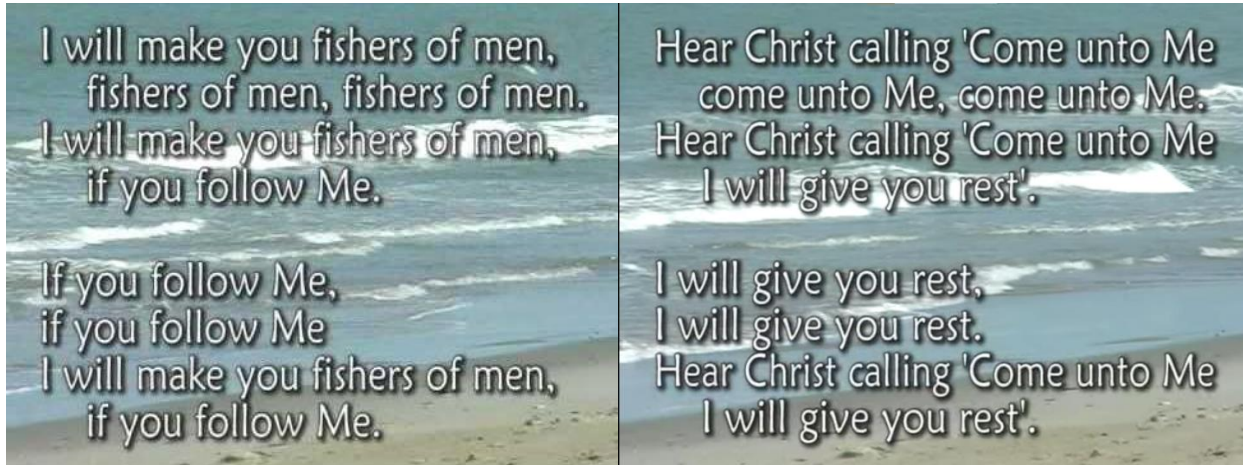
See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!

**1 John 3:1**

### **Good morning and welcome to this week's thoughts.**

Today we are starting with a very well-known chorus

“I will make you fishers of Men.” [I will make you fishers of men - YouTube](#)



### **The reading today is Luke 5:1-11**

[Luke 5: 1-11 NIVUK - Jesus calls his first disciples - One - Bible Gateway](#)

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret,<sup>1</sup> the people were crowding round him and listening to the word of God. <sup>2</sup> He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

<sup>4</sup>When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.'

<sup>5</sup>Simon answered, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.'

<sup>6</sup>When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. <sup>7</sup>So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

<sup>8</sup>When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!' <sup>9</sup>For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, <sup>10</sup>and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.' <sup>11</sup>So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

## **We are Called.**

Do you like fishing? If someone were to ask me that question, I guess I would have to say, "I'm not really fussed." I like to catch fish, but I don't enjoy fishing unless I am catching fish. I have heard some people say that they don't care whether they catch any fish or not -- they just enjoy going fishing. Not me!

I remember two holidays I went on as child. The first camping in France in the Alsace, a beautiful place. The campsite was on a lake, so my brother and I went fishing in the evenings, and every time we cast we caught a fish, we then threw it back and took turns, we had hours of fun. On another holiday on the Norfolk Broads, we fished all week and only caught one eel, that was probably the least favourite part of an otherwise fantastic holiday.

As I think about those holidays, I am reminded of today's Bible passage, about some men who had a fishing experience a lot like my Norfolk Broads experience -- until Jesus came along.

One day Jesus was standing by the sea of Galilee. A large crowd of people started to gather around him. He saw some fishermen nearby who were cleaning and mending their nets so he climbed into one of their boats. He asked one of the men whose name was Peter, to put the boat out a little way from the shore. Jesus sat in the boat teaching the people.

When he had finished teaching, Jesus said to Peter, "Put the boat further out into the deep water and let down your nets to catch some fish."

"We've been fishing all night long and haven't caught a thing, but if you say so, we will let down the nets one more time," Peter answered.

An amazing thing happened! When they started pulling the nets up, there were so many fish that the nets began to break. As they pulled the fish into the boat,

there were so many fish that the boat was beginning to sink. When Peter and his fellow fishermen saw this, they were astonished and even a bit frightened.

Jesus said, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people."

The Bible tells us that they pulled their boats up onto the shore, left everything, and followed Jesus. From that day on, Peter and his friends fished for people and brought many into God's Kingdom.

Jesus also calls you and me to follow him and fish for people too. If we will be faithful in telling people about Jesus and his love, we can trust Jesus to bring in the catch!

## Our hymn today is “I want to walk with Jesus Christ”

[I Want To Walk With Jesus Christ Song Lyrics Video - YouTube](#)

I want to walk with Jesus Christ,  
all the days I live of this life on earth;  
to give to Him complete control  
of body and of soul.

*Follow Him, follow Him,  
yield your life to Him -  
He has conquered death,  
He is King of kings;  
accept the joy which He gives to those  
who yield their lives to Him.*

I want to learn to speak to Him,  
to pray to Him, confess my sin,  
to open my life and let Him in,  
for joy will then be mine.

*Follow Him, follow Him.....*

I want to learn to speak of Him –  
my life must show that He lives in me;  
my deeds, my thoughts, my words must speak  
all of His love for me.

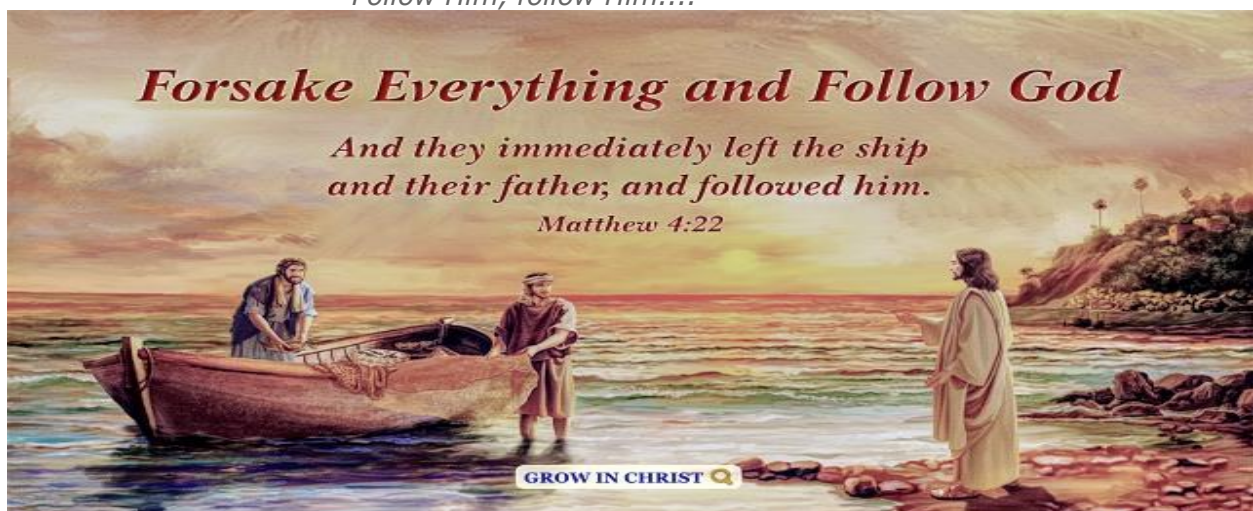
*Follow Him, follow Him....*

I want to learn to read His word,  
for this is how I know the way  
to live my life as pleases Him,  
in holiness and joy.

*Follow Him, follow Him....*

O Holy Spirit of the Lord,  
enter now into this heart of mine;  
take full control of my selfish will  
and make me wholly Thine!

*Follow Him, follow Him....*



### Today's Pray:

Dear God, help us to be good fishers for people -- faithful to go, patiently waiting, and trusting you to bring in the catch.

Amen.

