

MEDITATION

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him" (Mark 1:16-18).

It seems interesting to me that in that immediate moment, Simon and Andrew drop their fishing nets and follow Jesus. Yes, being a fisherman was hard work; it was a minimum wage job and one that many probably longed to get out of. Fishermen were most likely the unskilled and uneducated during that time. But I wonder how someone can leave the comfort of their life and their profession to follow someone they didn't really know; especially to follow the one who so vaguely invited them: "I will make you fish for people." It's not like Jesus said, as we hear in advertisements today, "quit your job and stay at home to make \$80,000 a year." Jesus didn't say that at all. It didn't

seem like Jesus was offering them a better work opportunity or even a better life for that matter. If they quit their jobs and followed Jesus, how could they provide for themselves and their family? How could they immediately trust Jesus enough to leave their work and follow him? They didn't know where they were even going or what they would be doing!

What we find in these verses, where Jesus begins his ministry and mission in this world, is an invitation to Simon and Andrew and eventually the rest of his disciples; an invitation to be in relationship with Jesus. Jesus invited them to come and follow him, to live a new way of life that was focused on bringing the good news of the kingdom of God to the world (Mark 1:14-15). And that, as we know, was such a greater task than any earthly



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job could implore.

Not so much has changed since Jesus first called his disciples. Jesus is still working in our lives and in this world to invite us to be in relationship with him so that we can share God's kingdom with others. Jesus is still saying to us this day, "come and follow me and I will make you fish for people." Discipleship, following Jesus, is about that relationship. It is a relationship with God and with his people in which, together, we follow him in service as we work to make a difference in the world. And, discipleship is a risk; following Jesus means that we go out into the world not knowing what we might be doing or where we might be going. But, what we do know is that Christ is with us, leading and providing for us each and every step of the journey. And that makes following Jesus an amazing thing! My prayer this day is that you feel Jesus calling you into that relationship with him and that we may be as open and as bold as the disciples were to accept that invitation.

Students named scholarship winners

Seven area students were named Golden Leaf Foundation scholarship winners for the 2014 summer session at Cleveland Community College.

They were: Caleb Beaver, Ellenboro; Matthew Ange, Fire Academy, Pamela Callahan, Associate degree nursing, Michael England, Associate in Arts, and Chelsey Ledford, Fire Academy, all of Shelby; Emily Ensley, Grover, Surgical Technology; and Mitchell Cloninger, Kings Mountain, Fire Academy.

Grover board approves 2014-15 budget

Town board at a recent meeting adopted an amended budget for 2014-15 totaling \$948,869.38.

The budget earmarks \$395,660.00 in the general fund; \$5,958.53 in the cemetery fund; \$146,995.74 in the Powell fund and \$400,255.11 in the water and sewer fund.

The budget ordinance approved at the June 24 meeting was \$681,820.00.

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