

## Meditation on Matthew 4:9

By Bev Kilts



“And Jesus said to them, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Matthew 4:9

**Matthew – a tax collector – probably even less popular than today. In his time, it was a given that he was dishonest. What on earth did Jesus see in Matthew? How could this corrupt man whose very occupation earned him the common title of “sinner” (Matt. 9:10) be expected to follow Christ and one day be a founder of churches. But that was exactly what Jesus expected.**

And Matthew said, “Yes, Lord”.

**Jesus went throughout Galilee preaching, teaching, performing miracles and tagging along were the men He had called to follow. They learned from the Master, they responded and grew in knowledge and faith; they abided with Him. Imagine what it would have been like to have walked with Jesus – to have watched him at work. The disciples heard Him teach the gospel publicly and then would receive private explanations of what He had spoken. They became His friends, His co-laborers. They witnessed His miracles. Matthew records in chapter 8 the cleansing of the leper, the healing of a centurion’s servant and Peter’s mother-in-law followed by numerous healings and casting out of**

spirits.....Imagine.....The disciples were with Him. They witnessed His persecutions, His deep passion and compassion, His tears, his prayers and they learned to be fishers of men. Jesus had given them the most rewarding of jobs – to reach out to people with the Good News of God.

**As Matthew discovered, our acceptance of Christ is just the beginning. He is able to do so much more with our lives and we should wish for this Holy work to happen. He doesn’t say merely, “Follow me”. It’s important to me that I am saved, but then what about all of those who aren’t? We now notice the second part of the invitation – “I will make you fishers of men.” His work in our lives has just begun. We who were fish must now become fishers. There was purpose to the training of the disciples – they were to be sent out to make disciples of the unsaved. Our part is to determine to follow – to abide – to keep in His footsteps. The disciples learned directly from Him; we have His Word. As with the disciples, we must learn at the Masters feet and spend time daily in study of scripture and in prayer....then look forward to the special joy found in serving Him.**

Remember, He didn’t say, “follow me if you have the time and if it’s not too inconvenient.” He said simply, “Follow me”. He also didn’t say “and I will send you to the far corners of the earth”. Our mission field could be right next door or even at home.

In Jeremiah 29:11, God said, “I know the plans I have for you....” It’s for us to obey and wait for Him to take us a-fishin’.



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