

“One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” And they left their nets at once and followed him.” Mark 1:16-18 NLT

lectio // Mark 1:16-20

Mark writes this scene so casual, so relaxed - but it wasn't, it was intensely intentional! One day Jesus takes a walk, by the seashore. Serene huh? Maybe praying, reflecting on God's amazing handiwork? Possible. But more likely Jesus was fishing, oh not with a net and a boat, but with the Spirit. Mark tells us that Jesus recruits his first followers - four of them, brothers! Four hardworking, middle class, rugged fisherman. Simon, Andrew, James and John (the last two nicknamed “sons of thunder”). The text feels easy, natural, like going for a stroll and picking some favorite flowers for your girl. Don't be fooled. Oh, it was all those things, smooth, normal, even fun - but that's because that's exactly how the Holy Spirit does his thing. Just so normal. Does anything look or feel spectacular about the walk or the ask? Sure it was a bold ask, but Jesus makes it seem he's just chatting it up and throwing out a “Dad joke” to some working guys. Except, there was so much more in the ask. Had God been working in their lives before Jesus asks? To the point that they may have already been saying, “is this all to life?” or “are we going to be fisherman forever?” I only say that because often God has been working and stirring hearts before someone asks them the BIG LIFE questions. I believe that God, the Holy Spirit had already been doing reconnaissance! Do you think the Holy Spirit goes BEFORE you when he nudges you to step out in faith and talk to someone? Maybe it's even a BIG ASK to BIG LIFE decisions for someone? I believe he does it all-the-time if we would listen and obey.

oratio

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

I look forward to walking the beach, the neighborhood or even grabbing a bite to eat and you prompting me to pause and talk with someone. I'd love it if you gave me some witty ways of talking to folks like Jesus did. How cool was it for Jesus to ask fisherman to switch careers but still be fishing? Amazing.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root