

GOD'S CALLING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Lesson Three

IN THE GOSPELS: James and John

Burden to Impart:

The Lord Jesus not only wanted to call Peter and Andrew to follow Him, He also wanted to call their cousins and friends, James and John. Although James and John may have been the youngest disciples the Lord called, they later became apostles (sent ones) for the Lord. They both loved the Lord very much, preached His gospel, and were faithful to Him for the rest of their lives.

Memory Verse: "... He saw another two brothers, James ... and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending the nets; and He called them" - (Matthew 4:21).

Facts to Teach:

1. Andrew and Peter had two cousins who lived near them in Galilee, James and John. They were partners in fishing as well as close friends (Luke 5:7, 10). Andrew and John seemed to be the more drawn to seek the Lord, for they had apparently left their hometown and were so touched by the preaching of John the Baptist that they stayed with him and became His disciples (John 1:37, 42; Matt. 4:22 . note 1).
2. John and Andrew met the Lord Jesus by the Jordan River through John the Baptist (John 1:35-37) and began to follow Him for a short time. Later, they returned to Galilee to continue their fishing business with their father, Zebedee (Matt. 4:21).
3. After His baptism and forty days of trial and temptation in the wilderness, Jesus went to Galilee to find His first few disciples, Andrew, Peter, James, and John. He first found Andrew and Peter and called them. He then went to their cousins, who were nearby, and also called them to follow Him.
4. James and John were mending their broken fishing nets when the Lord called them. Perhaps these were the nets that had broken due to the miracle the Lord performed when they caught so many fish that their boat nearly sank (Luke 5:1-11).
5. John was probably the youngest disciple the Lord called. In their youth John and James sometimes argued as to who was greatest (Mark 9:33-34). They also wanted the Lord to promise them that they could sit in a special place beside Him when He entered into His Kingdom (Mark 10:35-41). This upset the other ten disciples. The Lord called them the "sons of thunder" (Mark 3:17). This may indicate that they were rather hot-tempered or impulsive.
6. Though they were young, John and James loved the Lord very much. The Lord one day told them that they would both be killed because of their love for Him (Mark 10:39). This did not cause them to be afraid or to leave the Lord. They followed Him faithfully all of their lives. John later became the writer of five books of the New Testament.