

## Application Guide: “Jesus Begins His Ministry”

**August 15, 2004:** Kimber Kauffman, Senior Pastor of College Park Church, preached a message on Matthew 4:12-25 which describes when and where Jesus began his ministry, his calling of fisherman to follow him into full-time service, and what he did as he began his ministry.

1. **Spiritual Discipline of the Week** – This week, Pastor Anderson talked about Evangelism. Perhaps this week you could give special emphasis to the Outreach dimension of the flock group ministry and focus on...
  - a. What can we do to encourage one another in sharing our faith?
  - b. What kinds of outreach activities might we pursue in our group?
2. Pastor Kimber described in v12-17 that Jesus began his ministry in Galilee...near the gentiles, in accordance with God’s timing “when his hour had come” (John 2: 1-4) ...near the end of the ministry of John the Baptist, and he preached the same message ...”Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.” (Matthew 3:2 and 4:17)
  - a. As Jesus carefully selected when and where to begin his ministry, have you intentionally chosen, your Galilee...your sphere of influence in which you would like to reach out to others?
  - b. What do you feel called to do?
  - c. What can we do to encourage you in this area?
3. Pastor Kimber noted in v18-22 that Peter & Andrew and James & John, after hearing the preaching of the word of Christ, followed him when he asked them to do so.
  - a. What did Jesus say he would do with them?
  - b. What did Jesus ask of the fishermen?
  - c. What does Jesus ask of us today?
4. Pastor Kimber pointed out in v23-25 that Jesus’ ministry consisted of teaching (in the synagogues to the Jewish people), preaching the good news of the kingdom, healing every disease and sickness among the people...throughout Galilee. And word spread throughout the region and large crowds of people began to follow him?
  - a. For what purpose did the fishermen who were called, and the people who heard the news, follow Jesus?
  - b. Why do people come to College Park Church, and whom do they follow?
  - c. What can we do to encourage one another in following Jesus?
5. Pastor Kimber asked why did Jesus choose fishermen to follow him? In answering that question, he pointed out their qualities.
  - a. What are the qualities of a good “fisherman?”
  - b. How do these compare to the qualities of a good “fisher of men?”
  - c. Assuming you would like to be a better “fisher of men,” identify three qualities in which you would like to work on in the weeks ahead?

## Qualities of a “Fisherman” and a “Fisher of men”

Fisherman	Fisher of Men
Known to be hard working people (Matthew 4:18, 21 and Luke 5:5)...who toil (work hard to point of exhaustion)	Hard workers <sup>1</sup> Up early, and out late.
Courageous. Fight the seas	Courageous. Willing to do battle with the powers of darkness.
Be Patient...you don't always catch fish	Patiently awaits God's leading and opening doors of opportunity
Faith	Faith in Christ to do all things
Have Skill	Have Skill
Successfully catch fish	Is prepared to share Christ with others and has successfully done so.
Good sense of timing	Good sense of timing
Learns from mistakes	Learns from mistakes
Reads the weather	Reads verbal and non-verbal cues
Cooperate with other fishermen...particularly in casting nets	Cooperates with others...particularly when engaged in similar outreach activities.

### Resources:

**Pastor Kimber Kauffman:** Description of a fisherman from sermon Sunday August 15, 2004 on Matthew 4:12-25.

**International Standard Bible Encyclopedia.** *fish'-er fish'-er-man* (Hebrew [dayyagh], Hebrew [dawwagh]; Greek [halieus]; Westcott and Hort, The New Testament in Greek [haleeus]): Although but few references to fishermen are made in the Bible, these men and their calling are brought into prominence by Jesus' call to certain Galilee fishermen to become His disciples (Mt 4:18, 19; Mk 1:16, 17). Fishermen, then as now, formed a distinct class. The strenuousness of the work (Lk 5:2) ruled out the weak and indolent. They were crude in manner, rough in speech and in their treatment of others (Lk 9:49, 54; Jn 18:10). James and John before they became tempered by Jesus' influence were nicknamed the "sons of thunder" (Mk 3:17). The fishermen's exposure to all kinds of weather made them hardy and fearless. They were accustomed to bear with patience many trying circumstances. They often toiled for hours without success, and yet were always ready to try once more (Lk 5:5; Jn 21:3). Such men, when impelled by the same spirit as filled their Master, became indeed "fishers of men" (Mt 4:19; Mk 1:17).

**Web Resource on Following Christ:** <http://www.bertsgoodstuff.com/follow.htm>

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<sup>1</sup> “Send me twice born men, but send me men who were born well the first time” – Famous Missionary