



Mending the Nets

presented by

John Yamin Ministries

visit us on the web at
www.johnyamin.com
info@johnyamin.com

Mending the Nets

I. Follow Me and I Will Make You

A. Matt 4: 18 – 22

And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." They immediately left their nets and followed Him. Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

B. Mark 1:16-20

And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." They immediately left their nets and followed Him. When He had gone a little farther from there, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the boat mending their nets. And immediately He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went after Him.

1. Follow - akoloutheō

To accompany, go along with, go the same way with, one who proceeds
Akoloutheō is being on the same roadway with someone, since the word was easily used for soldiers, servants, and pupils, it can easily be transferred to the life of a Christian. In 78 gospel occurrences it is used 77 times of following Jesus. Metamorphically, it is used for discipleship.

Matt 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples (followers) of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

II. Mending the Nets analogy

A. Luke 5: 4-7

When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net."

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And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

1. their net was breaking

B. John 21: 3-11

Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing."

They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing. But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Then Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any food?" They answered Him, "No."

And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some."

So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.

Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Now when

Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea. But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish.

Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught."

Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken.

1. their net was not broken

III. Mending the Saints

A. Matt 4:21

Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them,

B. Col 2:10 – complete

and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

C. Heb 13:21 – complete

make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

D. Heb 11:3 – Framed

By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the

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things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

- E. Gal 6:1 – restore
Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.
- F. 2 Tim 3:17 – Fitted; thoroughly equipped
that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- G. Eph 4:11 – 12 equipping the saints
And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

IV. **Katartisis noun; Katartizo verb**

Mending, complete, restore, perfect, fully furnished, thoroughly equipped, framed

- A. Equipping, training, discipling, adjustments and repairs, set in order, making fit; making fully qualified for service
- B. To arrange, adjust, complete what is lacking, make fully ready, repair, prepare
- C. Repair or adjust – fit, frame, mend, join together perfectly, to put in full order; to refit, mend that which is broken
- D. In classical Greek, the word is used for setting a bone during surgery
- E. The Lord Jesus is now making all necessary adjustments so the church (the Body of Christ) will not be “out of order.”

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V. Eph 4:11-12 – Ministry equips

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ

A. Equipping

1. A making fit, preparing, training. Perfecting, making fully qualified for service. Setting bone in surgery. The Great Physician is now making all the necessary adjustments so the church will not be “out of joint”.

VI. Eph 2:8-10 Good works prepared before hand

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

A. Workmanship: Poïema

1. A design produced by an artisan. Emphasizes God as the master designer, the universe as His creation and the believers as His new creation.

B. Good: A work which produces benefits

VII. Eph 4:20-24

But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

A. Be renewed in the spirit of your mind

1. Aim and purpose of your mind

B. Put on the new man, new in regard to form on or quality, rather than new in reference to time.

Creation: A founding, establishing, settling, formation. Denotes both the act of creating and the product of the creative act

C. 2 Cor 5:17 – You are a new creation. Created for Good Works

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VIII. All Scripture is Profitable

A. 2 Tim 3:16-17

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine (teaching), for reproof (exposing errors and beliefs not based on truth), for correction (set on course, set in order, right road to arrive at the destination), for instruction in righteousness (skilled in the Word of Righteousness in order to discern good from evil), that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped (mended, well fitted, be made fully ready) for every good work.

B. 2 Pet 1:19-21

And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

1. Peter states that the written Word of God is the most certain form of the Word of God.
2. If Peter's experience with Jesus Himself is said by Peter to be subordinate to the "more sure" Word of the Scriptures, we have both a guideline and an ultimate statement.
3. The guideline is that no experience holds greater authority than the Word of God.
4. The written Word is our safety net so to speak.
5. The Word is the truth and the Holy Spirit leads us and guides us into all the truth of the Written Word.

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IX. Jesus has Called each Member of the Church (the Body of Christ) into the Ministry of Reconciliation

A. 2 Cor. 5:17-21

1. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
2. Reconcile - To change or exchange, reestablish, restore relationships, make things right, remove an enmity
Five times the word reconcile refers to God's making things right between us and Himself through the life, death and resurrection of his Son Jesus.
Describes the reestablishing of a proper loving, interpersonal relationship which has been broken or disrupted (Rom 5:10) (2 Cor 5:18)
3. Reconciliation – Restoration to Divine favor, to the grace of God, to change the nature of a thing; A change from a state of enmity between persons to one of friendship. To be brought back into friendship from a state of disagreement or enmity.
4. Ambassadors – representative of a ruling authority
5. might become – to have come into existence or simply to be
6. We have all been called back to union and friendship with God by what Jesus has done. God has given every Christian the ministry of reconciliation; that is reconciling men to Himself and to each other in Christ Jesus.

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B. The ministry of J.O.Y.

1. **J**esus - Receive from Jesus the “word of reconciliation.”
 - a. Work out this word in your own life.
 - b. You cannot give it away until you own it.

2. **O**thers - Share that word of reconciliation with others in your community.
 - a. People who are saved but isolated from the body of Christ.
 - b. People who are not saved.

3. **Y**ourself - You will receive joy as you minister.
 - a. There is nothing like the joy that comes from sharing Jesus with others!
 - b. After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. Then He said to them, “The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest..” (Luke 10:1-2)
Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.” (Luke 10:17)
 - c. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city. (Acts. 8:5-8)

X. Ministering Reconciliation

A. Operation of the ministry of reconciliation

1. Pray
 - a. Then He said to them, “The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. (Luke 10:2)

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- b. Praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ.. that I may make it clear.. (Col 4:3-4)
2. Look at the field ripe for harvest. (John 4:35)
3. Look for the Holy Spirit to create doors of opportunity (Eph 2:10).
 - a. for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure. (Phil. 2:13).
4. Targeting the ministry of reconciliation
 - a. Have the members concentrate on specific individuals or families, with the goal of bringing them into relationship with Jesus Christ and His church
 - b. Relatives of group members
 - c. Neighbors and friends
 - d. Visitors
5. Minister reconciliation to those who are not saved, who have been driven away from the church by the devil, those who are wounded and brokenhearted, anyone not in relationship.

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John and Priscilla Yamin

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