**Week of May 10, 2019**

**Mark 1:16-20 Luke 14:25-33**

16 Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. 17 And Jesus said unto them, come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men. 18 And straightway they forsook their nets and followed him. 19 And when he had gone a little further thence, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending their nets. 20 And straightway he called them: and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants and went after him.

25 And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, 26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot\* be my disciple. 27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot\* be my disciple. 28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? 29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, 30 Saying, This\* man began to build, and was not able to finish. 31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? 32 Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. 33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath\*, he cannot\* be my disciple.

 **Understanding the Scriptures**

Today’s lesson is coming from the books Mark and Luke in the setting of the Sea of Galilee which was sixty miles north of Jerusalem. The Gospel accounts picture fishing as a prosperous industry here in biblical times. On these shores, Jesus called His first disciples, four of whom were fishermen. This lake was near where Jesus did much of His teaching and where miracles were performed. A lot of fishing took place on this lake. When Jesus called the brothers (Simon and Andrew; and James and John) to follow him, they really had no idea what they were committing to, but they still turned and began following Jesus. The brothers’ decision was major, especially considering the family tradition for men to work and support their families with traditional jobs. When the brothers left their jobs and steady income, it showed how serious they were about following Jesus. In Luke 14:27, Jesus said that every follower of His must understand that discipleship takes commitment. Jesus was proposing radical discipleship. Radical discipleship means putting Christ before family and possessions. This is a difficult calling for some – especially for those who may have a great amount of material wealth. Yet, Jesus wanted His followers to not have anything that was more important to them than following Him. He used the example of a builder and a king to drive home the importance of considering the cost before making the decision to follow Him. If the disciples did not realize how they might be challenged in their faith, then the first sign of a trial they might have been tempted to quit and go back to their previous lifestyle and occupation. Jesus knew that eventually he would be going to Jerusalem to suffer and die – that was part of His mission. Jesus was concerned that His followers might not be aware or prepared for what the commitment would cost them.

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