

GFBC Thursday Night's Scriptural Study  
Lesson # 139  
Scriptural Reading: Matthew 4:18-22 {KJV}  
Teaching Verses: 18-19

March 26, 2025

TEXT – MATTHEW 4:18-19

TITLE – CULTIVATING YOUR PASSION FOR CHRIST

VV-18-19-{KJV}-“And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: they were fishers. And He saith unto them, Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

The 2025 GFBC Theme is “Keeping It Real.” And for the month of March, the teaching and preaching subtopic is, “**Keeping It Real In Your Passion For Christ.**”

This evening with the help of the Holy Ghost, I want to tag the teaching text with the title: “**Cultivating Your Passion For Christ.**” Cultivating Your Passion For Christ.

Cultivating your passion for Christ is interwoven and predicated upon developing a personal, authentic relationship with Him. Your passion for Christ is individualized. If you are to develop, and prioritize an in-depth passion for Christ, it requires spending quality time with Him.

Cultivating and developing your passion for Christ is an intentional process that allows you to fact find, investigate, and utilize the information to know Him. The more you develop your relationship with Christ, the better you will get to know Him.

When you honestly love the LORD with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength, your delight in Him will enhance your desire to please, and to know the deeper things about Him. The Apostle Paul devalued his pedigree, and all of his meaningful accomplishments for the excellency of the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

In Philippians 3:8, the Apostle Paul said, “**for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.**” In other words Paul was saying, I count all of my gains as loss, that I may become one with Him.

Becoming one with Christ is being in solidarity with Him. Everything that Jesus is and does is in the oneness with the Father, and the Holy Spirit.

And because of the Apostle Paul yearning to be one with Christ, his ultimate desire was to know Him; to know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings {Philippians 3:8, KJV}.

Getting to the point in your Christian Walk whereby your yearning is to be one with Christ, to know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings requires, focus, loyalty, perseverance, persistency, drive, and determination.

Cultivating your passion for Jesus Christ, is a rich, and rewarding process. Both Peter, Andrew, James, John, Paul, and all of Jesus’ disciples gave up something to cultivate their passion for Christ. In the teaching text, we discovered that Peter and Andrew were brothers.

James and John were also brothers. These four men were by profession, fishermen.

While Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Peter and Andrew casting their net. In other words, they were fishing. The teaching text says, “**they were fishers.**”

While Jesus was walking on the sandy shores of the Sea of Galilee, He saw Peter and Andrew engaging in

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their profession. They were in their boat, on the Sea of Galilee, casting their net.

And when Jesus saw Peter and Andrew in a boat, casting their net into the Sea of Galilee, Jesus said unto them, **“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”** The verb follow is in the imperative mood, which lets us know that Jesus did not ask them to follow Him, He commanded them to follow Him!

Now the teaching text does not specifically tell us if Jesus had a prior relationship with Peter, Andrew, James or John before He extended the invitational command to follow Him. However, the Apostle John informs us that at least two of the disciples had heard Jesus preach.

John 1:36-39 {KJV} says, **“And looking upon Jesus as He walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God! And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto Him, Rabbi, which is to say, being interpreted, Master, where dwelleth thou? He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where He dwelt, and abode with Him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.”**

Look at verses 40-42. Verses 40-42 says, **“One of the two which heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, He said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.”**

When John the Baptist was baptizing in the Jordan, Jesus came. Now remember, John the Baptist was Jesus’ forerunner. And when John the Baptist saw Jesus, John the Baptist declared, **“Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world” {John 1:29, KJV}.**

And when Andrew, the brother of Peter, and John the brother of James heard this announcement, Andrew, and John, who were disciples of John the Baptist, left him, and followed Jesus.

And because they {John the Baptist, Andrew, John, and others} were looking for, and expecting the Messiah, when John the Baptist said, **“Behold the Lamb of God,”** Andrew and John immediately turned in their resignation to John the Baptist, and followed Jesus.

After Andrew and John spent some quality time with Jesus, afterward, Andrew went and found his brother, Peter, and told him, **“We have found the Messiah which is translated, the Christ” {John 1:41, NKJV}.**

Whenever you spend quality time desiring and digging in the word to cultivate your passion, and to know Christ, you will always have more than enough to share Christ with family, friends, and those within your circle of influence. After Andrew spent time with Jesus Christ, the Scripture says, **“he {Andrew} first found his own brother Simon,” {John 1:41a, NKJV}.**

The point that I am trying to establish is, before Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James, and John, there was relationship and fellowship. When Jesus was walking on the sandy shores of the Sea of Galilee and saw Peter and Andrew casting their net, He knew them.

Before Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James, and John, He had a relationship with them. Notice if you will, in the context of the teaching text, Jesus met Peter, Andrew, James, and John, where they were.

Peter, Andrew, James, and John were fishermen. And when Jesus called them, one thing that stood out in my mind was, Jesus spoke their language. Jesus said, **“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”**

The call was not to change their vocation. The call was to upgrade their profession. Jesus said, **“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”**

And if the Christian Church, if Greater Faith is to effectively share Christ with family, friends, and those within our circle of influence, we must meet people where they are. We must learn how to speak their language, and develop meaningful relationships.

And if you want to “keep it real in your passion for Christ, you need to be authentic, available, and

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transparent. And because of Jesus’ authenticity, Peter, Andrew, James, and John immediately left their boats, nets, and family, and followed Jesus.

Now! I need you to get this! When Peter, Andrew, James, and John left their boats, nets, and family to follow Jesus, their passion for Jesus was undeveloped.

Passion and love are not developed over night! Strong passion for Christ is a process that’s developed in conjunction with love and loyalty. Passion is developed out of the love you have for the object of your love.

Love is the result of the developmental process of knowledge, and loyalty of the recipient of your love. The deeper your love is for Christ, the stronger your passion, and devotion becomes toward Him.

Passion and love for Christ is a developmental process. The more Peter, Andrew, James, and John learned about Jesus, they developed a stronger passion for Him. The level of your passion for Christ is determined by your loyalty, your love, and obedience to Him.

The more Peter, Andrew, James, and John learned about Jesus, the stronger their passion became toward Him. And because these disciples developed a greater love for Christ, they were loyal, and they cultivated a deep passion for Him.

And if you want to cultivate your passion for Christ, I want to suggest 7 things you can do:

1. Develop an authentic love for Him
2. Desire Him in a healthy way
3. Delight in His fellowship
4. Get to know Him
5. Prioritize Him in your life
6. Practice measurable obedience
7. Pray, study the word, and live out His precepts

And when you cultivate your passion for Christ, the Holy Spirit will keep your relationship with Him fresh and perfumerized!

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