

Westfield Sermon notes

Title: Stand up for your calling

Readings: Isa 42:1-9; Mat 4:18-25

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This sermon can be found at: <http://www.westfieldurc.org/worship/sermons/>

Sermon Notes / Comments:

- St. Matthew's gospel tells us how Jesus calls Andrew and his brother Peter to become fishers of people. If this was the first time they met it would have been amazing, we know however that they met earlier; St. John's Gospel tells us they first met 60 miles away at Bethany when John the Baptist was baptising
- Andrew was already a disciple of John the Baptist.
- John the Baptist calls Jesus the Lamb of God.
- Andrew introduces Peter to Jesus
- We know that Jesus' new disciples were there when Jesus turns water into wine.
- Often Jesus meets us where we are. Jesus may meet us through other people? Jesus may speak to us here in church, Maybe he speaks to us while we are doing "daily life". Perhaps when we are doing the dusting and cleaning.
- Jesus always finds a way, of coming to us and saying follow me.
- Andrew and Peter followed Jesus but they did not know what the job entailed.
- Jesus spoke to the fishermen in their own language. All the skills that they had built up in catching fish are now devoted to catching people.
- Fishermen must learn their trade. Similar people who work for Jesus must understand the character and the people they are talking to.
- We may meet one person and they back off, others may not. Often we do not know the background of the people we talk to. But Jesus knows them. He knows what is going on in their heart.
- Jesus will often give us the words to help someone. Jesus uses you and me to do his work
- People often say why me, what have I got to give? We all have gifts to give, some are small and some are big!
- Often if we use all our gifts together we can change the world we live in, we can change the community. There is not a one size fits all in evangelism.
- There are many people who are put off by religion; they find religion difficult. They look at you and me do they see something different in us than in other people. Is there something in us that make people wonder what have we got.
- We know that Andrew had gifts to use. Andrew (and Simon) came from an area which would have made them a second class citizen as pagans. Simon

had a Hebrew name and Andrew had a Greek name. They were almost certainly bi-lingual. Perhaps Jesus chose the brother because he was already planning a visit outside the region.

- Fisherman had to be good with money as they had to buy and sell. They had to buy a fishing boat. They may have had a crew which they had to pay, and of course the tax man.
- Simon and Peter may have been bumbling idiots when it come to religion, but were very wise in the worldly things of business.
- Why would Jesus want to call on them?
- Sometimes God calls us to be treasurers, but doesn't tell us how long we should be the treasurer. What does God call us to!? Is it because we are good with our minds, good with money, good with ...
- There are many out there who would love to come into our churches, but are frightened.
- There are people in our churches who are lonely, there are people who come to church every Sunday morning and go home and try to live out the message in their daily life. That is you and I
- Each one of you here this morning has the gift, to be his pioneer missionaries.
- Perhaps Jesus will one day walk past your house, come in to this church and say you are doing a good job, follow me on a journey. The journey may make you feel uncomfortable, but he says to each of us 'I am with you to the end of time'.
- We need to stop and think and listen and allow God to speak to us. May be this is the morning that God says something special to us!

Questions / thoughts and areas for discussion

- Read the two passages (Isa 42:1-9 & Matt 4:18-25). What surprised you?
- Have you ever introduced someone to Jesus, like Andrew did for his brother? What did it feel like?
- Find the Bible where the story of Jesus turning water into wine is. Which Disciples were there?
- What gifts have you got to give? What are your passions?
- How do we / you make this church more welcoming to those outside? How do we make this space (church) safe so that people don't feel frightened?
- How do we / you help people who are in church and lonely?
- What do you do Monday to Saturday to live Sunday's message out.
- What would you say if Jesus stops at your door? What do you think he will say?
- How do you stop, think and listen? How do you hear God?
- Do chat these through with others. You will be blessed.

Please note these are Mark's thoughts etc on the sermon and may not be the Preacher's!