

Nettleham Methodist Church - **EMERGENCY** Cell Material

Week beginning: 22nd June 2008 & THEREAFTER!

Theme: Commands of Jesus 2 - Matthew 4:19

To Get Us Started: Have you recently done something on impulse? Are you by nature an impulsive person or does that kind of thing freaky you out? Are you someone who likes to plan everything well ahead! (Discuss)

Word

Following on from the first week we started to look at the Great Commission and the commands of Jesus we now come to Matthew 4:19, which directly flows out of the first one - 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near' (Matthew 4:17). Right near the beginning of Jesus' ministry He starts to call people to follow Him and to join Him in the work of making disciples (see Matthew 4:18-25). Matthew 4:19 is particularly apt as the first four men He calls were fishermen (i.e. Peter, Andrew, James & John)!

Here are some points to prayerfully consider together:

1. What does it mean to follow Jesus in the 21st Century?
2. What does it mean to be 'made into fishers of men' by Jesus today?
3. What was the fishermen's response and how long did it take to decide to follow Jesus?
4. How about us?

In Matthew 4:23-25 Jesus demonstrates who He is by getting on with the job. List the ways He does this and the people's response to Him. Now look at Hebrews 13:8. What has changed? How do we as 21st Century Christians reflect and carry on the work of Jesus? Do we? (Discuss!)

Jesus said as the end of His ministry in Acts 1 that the disciples were to be witnesses, but first they needed someone to help them. Who was He? Do you lack power in your own lives to carry out the divine mission to 'make fishers of men'? If so, it is time to wait on the Lord and pray for power! We can't do the things Jesus wants us to do in our own strength - we all need the power of the Holy Spirit! Read Matthew 3:11 & Acts 1:5 & 8.

How we need an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the church today - especially at NMC! There are signs in various parts of the world that this is happening. Do you want to be a part of it or are you content with what you've got? Here's another point to consider: If you're never hungry then you're not healthy!

Are you hungry for more of God? If so, He delights to answer the prayers of His children who are desperate for more of Him.

Worship/ Prayer

Spend some time worshipping God together either using worship CDs or Scripture. Ask the Lord to give you a hunger for Him - hungry for His word; hungry for fellowship with His people; hungry for His word and to obey His commands. Ask Jesus to teach us how to make 'fishers of men' and pray for one another to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit which John the Baptist spoke about and Jesus promised. If you would like me (Rev Mark) to visit your cell about this vitally important subject let me know and we'll make an appointment, because *this is an emergency!*

Witness

This is the main point! We need power to be effective witnesses and disciple-makers. We each have a role to play in this. Together we can transform our families, communities and work-places for Jesus, but we need power and a hunger to do so. That is why it is so important to commit ourselves to fellowship in cells and Sunday worship to be strengthened in the work of sharing and demonstrating the Gospel. If you're too busy to get to cell and Sunday worship you've got your priorities wrong and need to put Jesus first. Remember what Jesus said in Revelation 3:15-16 - if not look it up!