

TEXT

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called **Peter**, and **Andrew** his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.’

- What sort of followers?
- What sort of physique, talent, social setting?
- Why **Immediately**?

As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, **James** son of Zebedee and his brother **John**, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them.

- a movement is coming together
- other historical movements
 - going off to war
 - refusing the Viet Nam draft
 - anti-HST

Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Our own response to the Gospel

- for some, always there, part of our upbringing
- for some, an evolution of responsibility, parents and kids
- for some, a helpful response to crisis
- for some, something else!

With tongue slightly in cheek, lets develop the story a bit, to include four more followers, these from our own age and culture

Meet Malcolm (say Hi Malcolm)

M. is a free, un-confined sort of guy, high energy, sometime loud and slightly annoying, a spirited human being. He's action, even crisis-oriented; you want him if the house is burning down. he will put the fire out, analyze how it started and schedule a fire drill before you have the smoke out of your clothing. He's a good performer and functions really well in the present moment. He embodies the NIKE slogan "just do it." Where God is concerned, he knows his own spirit better than God's Holy Spirit. That can be a problem. His musical hero is Elvis. He brings energy into the room.

Meet Julie (Say Hi Julie)

Julie is a thinker, par excellence. She did really well in school and is considering post-graduate education. She is logical in her speech and thought, loves complicated projects, plays chess for fun and is curious about truth in all things. People Julie that 'she's making mountains out of molehills' but really she's just trying to figure things out for herself and others if they will just listen. She is a strong leader and likes to take on challenging tasks. That said, she despises failure in herself and has trouble with others then they muck up. Some people give her a wide berth. She is thinking about law or architecture for a career, but again, she wants something in which she can excel. She finds politics messy and undisciplined, especially in BC right now. For music, she likes Bach and Handel, performed on period instruments the way the composers would have wanted to hear it.

Meet Beverley (Say Hi Beverley)

Beverley (definitely not Bev.) brings to every task a deep sense of obligation. She is the one who will carry through on ideas and projects. If you want the job done, call Beverley. She loves to be useful and prefers giving over receiving. Yes, you guessed it, she's into control but for some good reasons. She is also very, very caring. She values tradition and connecting with the past because the past worked in the past and could do so again. She's the one who will say, out loud, "if I don't do it, who will?" So she often ends up doing things, often by herself which can be a problem. She values law and order and likes to know what's coming next. Life for Beverley, is organized and that's good. Her music . . . is vintage Elton John.

Finally, meet Danny (Say Hi Danny)

Now Danny . . . Danny brings energy into every room. He is persuasive, optimistic, verbal, and often outspoken. Others find him demanding and tiring. He is a good speaker and writer. Get Danny for your next press release or variety show host. His big heart is easily wounded, and he is highly committed to helping others. He prefers face-to-face communication and is not all that keen on Facebook. Going deep is a challenge for Danny. That said, he is a perfectionist which tends to annoy others. He often feels misunderstood. He sees potential in everything, and I do mean, EVERYTHING. He lives for possibilities, often when others shake their heads. His music in Jazz, preferably standards in unique arrangements.

INTEGRATION

What a crew, Peter, Andrew, James, John, Malcolm, Beverley, Julie and Danny, all followers of Jesus, each with unique personalities which given certain conditions will thrive or fail, mesh and conflict, each capable and at the same time scared to act out of faith, hope and love. To such is entrusted the extension of the Kingdom of God and the building up of the church. If we require a vision, here are two possibilities:

THEN AND THERE

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

HERE AND NOW

We, members of the Church of the Advent, go throughout the Westshore, gathering in our church where the good news of the kingdom is proclaimed and interpreted, promoting and bringing healing, comfort and strength to those who struggle with the challenges of contemporary life, for which we invite God's insight, strength and love. Amen.