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Series : You are Chosen
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Readings : 1Corinthians 1:10-18 Psalm 6 Matthew 4:12-23

God chooses you from where you are.

God doesn't come to find us. He knows where we are and calls on us even when we are uncertain not seeming to be ready. We see the disciples were still fishermen here not yet the saints they are recognised today.

The disciples would have woken up early head down to the beach pushed out their boats and begun to fish. They would stay there till just after sunrise then rowed back in and brought the fish they caught to the market to be sold. Maybe used their earning to buy anything else they needed and headed home to their families.

The point is that they were just busy with everyday life till it was interrupted and God injected Himself into their lives. Forever their lives were changed they may have had hiccups where Jesus was crucified and they went back to fishing. However they were forever changed and knew to look out for the Spirit at work and saw Jesus for who he is and what He was doing around them.

In the same way God chooses you where you are right now and wants to do great things in you and with you right where you are.

We are significant, purposeful and powerful through Christ

The disciples at the time didn't think too much of themselves, were humble and had the right hearts for God to use them. God saw in them what they could not see in themselves. He saw how they fitted into His plan and the effect He can have in them and change the disciples could have over the world.

Each of the disciples was special to Jesus and they each had a part to play and a reason to be with Jesus, even Judas. They all listened to the things Jesus said, watched the way He did things interacted with people. How Jesus turned society on its head by pouring out into the hopeless and meek. Ridiculing the upright and self-righteous. They go to see these things happen and Jesus equipping them for their ministries that were to come. Jesus made them powerful through Him established them to be the apostles they were to become. Church establishing people just like you and me.

Do you know the difference between the disciples and us? It is how much we allow Jesus to influence our lives. You don't need to drop everything and become a nomad to honour Jesus, but we can allow Jesus to influence our lives the way He influenced theirs.

For God has a purpose, a plan for your lives. You are just as special to God today as you were 10, 20, 30 years ago. That has not changed. Through Jesus we are all powerful.

There is more power in the pew than in the pulpit.

God wants to use His children where you are and in what you are doing. You are powerful and He has a plan. Anthony told you all how you have a story and how you need to be ready to share it. How much are you going to let God influence your lives?

Are you ready to take that step?

What's holding you back? Are you afraid, full of pride?
God asks for two things only. Two! But they will be difficult.

He wants you to **humble yourself** before Him and have **a willingness to serve**. That is what it means to love the Lord with all your heart. Don't get me wrong that isn't easy and it may mean you need to change your life around a little. It may mean that we are not just fishermen any more but rather that you are a child of God who works as a fishermen.

It's a new year lets change the way we think about ourselves. We are loved and we have a purpose and we are special to God. There is a plan for us let us humble our hearts and lay ourselves down for Him.

Lets Pray

Matthew 4:12-23 (NIV)

Jesus Begins to Preach

¹² When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— ¹⁴ to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

¹⁵ “Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
 the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan,
 Galilee of the Gentiles—

¹⁶ the people living in darkness
 have seen a great light;
 on those living in the land of the shadow of death
 a light has dawned.”^[a]

¹⁷ From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

Jesus Calls His First Disciples

¹⁸ As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” ²⁰ At once they left their nets and followed him.

²¹ Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, ²² and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus Heals the Sick

²³ Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

1 Corinthians 1:10-18 (NIV)

A Church Divided Over Leaders

¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers and sisters,^[a] in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. ¹¹ My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe’s household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. ¹² What I mean is this: One of you says, “I follow Paul”; another, “I follow Apollos”; another, “I follow Cephas^[b]”; still another, “I follow Christ.”

¹³ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don’t remember if I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

Christ Crucified Is God’s Power and Wisdom

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.