

Bible Story 30: JESUS BEGINS SECOND YEAR OF MINISTRY

Calls Fishermen; Heals Paralytic Man; Calls Matthew

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 4:12, 18-25; Luke 5:1-11, 17-32

MEMORY VERSE: "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."
Matthew 4:19 NIV

BIBLE STORY:

Herod put John the Baptist in prison. Around this time, Jesus began His second year of ministry.

One day Jesus was walking along the shore on the Sea of Galilee. People were around Him when Jesus saw two boats. He entered one boat and asked Simon Peter to take Him a little ways off shore. Sitting in the boat, Jesus taught the people. Then Jesus told Simon Peter to take the boat out into deeper waters and throw out the nets to catch fish. Simon Peter obeyed. When Simon Peter and Andrew threw out their nets, they caught so many fish. They called James and John to come and help, putting the fish in the boats. The boats were almost sinking because they caught so many fish. They were amazed!

Jesus looked at the two fishermen brothers, Simon Peter and Andrew, and said, "**Come, follow me. I will make you fishers of men**" (Mt 4:19). They left their nets and followed Jesus.

Also, Jesus called the fishermen brothers, James and John. Jesus asked them to follow Him and they obeyed. They went with Jesus, leaving their father and hired help in the boat.

One day Jesus was in a home in the city of Capernaum, on the northern part of the Sea of Galilee. People came to hear Jesus teach. Four men carried a paralytic man on a mat to the home to see Jesus. It was so crowded that they could not enter. So the men carried the paralytic man up some steps on the outside of the house to the roof. After they removed some tiles to make an opening, they lowered the paralytic man down and put him in front of Jesus. Looking up to the men on the roof, Jesus saw their faith. Then he looked at the paralytic man and said, "**Your sins are forgiven.**" People said that only God could forgive sins. Jesus replied, "**Is it easier to forgive sins or to heal someone? So that you know that the Son of Man can forgive sins, watch.**" Then Jesus told the paralytic man to pick up his mat and go home. The man obeyed. He got up, took his mat and went home praising God. Everyone was amazed and praised God for the miracle they saw.

Once again Jesus went to the shore on the Sea of Galilee and taught the crowds. As he was walking on the shore, He saw a man called Matthew (Levi), who was at a table, collecting taxes. Jesus called him to follow Him. Matthew got up, left everything and followed Jesus. Later Matthew gave a dinner, inviting his friends to come to meet Jesus.

This was the beginning of Jesus' second year of ministry.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What do you like about the story?
2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand?
3. Who are the main people in the story?
4. What problems did the people face?
5. How did the people face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?