

Smells and Sounds of Change.

Mark1:16-20

Passing along the beach of Lake Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew net-fishing. Fishing was their regular work. Jesus said to them, Come with me. I'll make a new kind of fisherman out of you. I'll show you how to catch men and women instead of perch and bass." They didn't ask any questions. They dropped their nets and followed. A dozen yards down the beach, he saw the brothers James and John, Zebedee's sons. They were in the boat, mending their fishnets. Right off, he made the same offer. Immediately, they left their father Zebedee, the boat, and the hired hands, and followed.

As a child, going to any of the beaches along the Jersey shore always came with certain odors! As a child, not such a good odor..smelly fish, salt air, foods from the restaurants, suntan lotion. But they came to be known as vacation smells. Later I married a born and bred local..one who lived there all his life. One who loved fishing, bathing at the beach, pizza on the boardwalk, and the smell of salt air. I couldn't imagine living in the midst of those smells, but I did. We moved from the beach to North Carolina and Washington DC. After being away for a while, I found myself very homesick for those smells. I realized that those smells meant love, peace, contentment and solitude to my husband and me.

I imagine Simon, Andrew, James and John had some of those feelings while along the shores of the lake of Gallilee. They had probably grown up there together. After all it was their life..fishing. As long as they stayed there, everything was fine. Then along comes Jesus...and said I can make you a new kind of fishermen. It says they did not ask any questions, but I have to believe there were questions flying around in their heads! Who? Where? How? Why? But the nets were dropped and they followed. As they followed Jesus, there were new smells..desert sand, animals, different foods. And there were new sounds..the hammering of building, donkeys on the gravel streets and people constantly following them. They were beginning to understand the new kind of fishing for people through Jesus' teachings and their ministry to the people.

Closing question:

Are you ready to drop your nets and follow a new wind to bring new smells and sounds of new people into your heart and life?

Prayer:

Dear Lord, in these times of turmoil in our country and the world, help us to become fishers of people. Help us to draw up new nets and grasp the sounds and smells in a new wind of love and compassion.

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