

# GATHERING & SCATTERING Pr. Victor Barreira

Matthew 4:19 “ FOLLOW ME AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN”

I like the “I Will” part. He didn’t say, “here’s a fishing pole...” Jesus’ job is to mold us into fishermen. Our Job is to what... “tell people they’re doing the wrong thing? Don’t wear that? Etc. No. A good fisherman knows the depth of where the fish are. Our perspective needs to go deeper into people’s lives and see thru the vanities. After all, we all come with vanities of some kind in our life before the cross.

I remember my pastor’s 1<sup>st</sup> visit to our house. We had a huge idolatrous statue in our bedroom. The face my pastor’s wife had when she saw it was of terror! But she remained silent and I know they prayed for us. Soon after, The Holy Spirit spoke to us about ridding our house of these things. The lesson learned was that they trusted the Holy Spirit to do the work. They’re job was to offer ‘grace’ and support.

Mt 12:30 “If your not gathering, you’re scattering...”

## **We’re doing one or the other**

Some examples of ‘scattering:’

1. Set the rules ...”don’t do this...do that...etc.” I’m not saying we should not correct people’s walk. Absolutely we should. I am saying when we begin playing God, and believing that we have the power to change anyone. The most powerful weapon we have is Grace and Love. God is the only one that can change any of us. But we can support His work by offering grace and love.
2. Cliques...ignore the unpopular folks. Did you know that when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, he was for the most part a pretty popular rabbi. They were singing ‘Hosanna...’ as He rode in. But things changed very soon and suddenly he was the ‘unpopular guy’ that no one wanted to be associated with...not even the disciples. ‘Outsiders can ‘feel’ cliques when churches and small groups become ‘closed social clubs.’ But Jesus took the place of being ‘unpopular’ so that the outcastes could relate their pain and loneliness with God...a God who truly cares.

## **How do we gather?**

Jesus said “Follow ME” Seek Me. Learn from Me. I will transform you” Following Jesus means to keep our eyes on Him all the time. When we don’t we begin trusting in our own abilities and strength.

**Peter had to be prepared.** Remember in Gethsemane when Peter cut off the soldier’s ear? Peter’s ‘strength was shown in a sword. But Jesus rebuked him, because the kingdom of God does not advance with revenge, but with grace and love...something Peter needed to see for himself while Jesus surrendered to the whipping post. Peter was so frightened by this that he denied knowing Jesus. This kind of strength was something that the Master had to teach him before Peter was to go forward in ministry.

**Why Are We Gathering in the First Place?** To bring the outcasts to set of rules? To bombard them with our theology? No. We’re bringing people HOME. What is Home? Jesus is the way home. Grace. Forgiveness. Righteousness! Unconditional Love! The more you are absorbed and understand God’s grace, the more you are transformed, and the more you become ‘bait’ for the master fisherman.