Pastor Dave Teixeira
November 1, 2009
Matthew 4:17-25

Please use the space below to take notes on today's message:

Take It Homework

We encourage you to not only do these exercises on your own, but also with a group of friends, co-workers, neighbors, small group or family members.

By Mark, chapter 4, the disciples knew Jesus. They had been hearing His teaching and even baptizing people as a proclamation to repent and go in the direction He was leading. And yet they were still just fishing. Matthew tells us that "They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen." (verse 18) and "They were on a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets." (verse 21) So they were still doing the mundane things of life. How could they spend an entire year fishing after meeting Jesus? Shouldn't they have been going to seminary, serving the poor, preaching, healing...doing something more spiritual? Sometimes we do what God wants by simply living out the mundane tasks of this world faithfully.

- Have you ever forgotten the value of your regular routines or roles?
- Have you ever felt like these tasks are not spiritual or holy or cared about by God?

In verse 19, Jesus calls these same men to, "Come follow Me." He was asking them to leave behind things that were familiar, stable and income producing. This call had to do with their identities, families and careers… and Jesus was asking them to walk away. Wow! That's intense. Then, the Bible tells us that they did it "immediately!" So there was a time of just plugging away at the routines of life and then Jesus shifted and called them to the opposite end of the spectrum—risk. From routine to risk!

- Has God ever called you to follow Him in a way that you had to walk away from something or someone?
- How well did you do at responding to Him immediately?

Jesus then told the guys that He would make them "fishers of men." This was an action statement. He was saying, "Let's go gather some people up, recruit, enlist and call people into the work of the Kingdom!" This was a very intentional deal.

- Are you intentional about inviting, leading, helping, loving, encouraging and calling people into the Kingdom of Heaven? Do you have any lines in the water? Why or why not? Do you think you should be fishing? Be honest. No shame, just an opportunity to think about if you are living a Kingdom life.

Finally, we read about the restoration ministry of Jesus—teaching, preaching and healing. All of humanity needs healing, redemption and restoration. People are searching for it.

- Do you have a story of restoration? (One from yourself or someone you know) Share it.
- Think about this one for a second—Where do you need Jesus to come in and bring restoration right now in your life? (Work, marriage, health, confidence, addiction, priorities, finances…)