

Called

This has been quite a week; the MLK celebrations, the build up to the Inauguration, last Friday's swearing in of our 45th President, yesterday's amazing turn out for the march in D.C., and all the marches around the nation and the world! At Grace Church, we had a 3-day work week to compile over 20 reports into our Annual Report for 2016 and to prepare all the materials for today's Annual Meeting. Perhaps you, in your own personal lives, have also had quite a week?

As we consider these first called to follow Jesus we think about how our new President is called. We wonder what former President Obama will do with the rest of his life. We think about all those called to make some kind of witness yesterday. And, as always on the day of our Annual Meeting, we consider our call at Grace Church to be disciples, stewards, witnesses, ministers of the "good news" of Jesus Christ.

I'm fascinated by the energy, the motivation behind a call. How do we figure out a call, from what to what? Who calls? How do we hear a call? Are we sure it's a call from God? Are we hearing our own voice calling? Or the voice of the world, or even of Satan?

One commentator, writing about the call to the first disciples, describes Jesus' "irresistible authority" and the disciples' "radical obedience." Do we know, do we hear this "irresistible authority"? Do we respond with "radical obedience"?

I find it is so important that the first to answer the call to follow Jesus were fisherman. They show us that answering a call is really a 3-step process: first, we listen, pray; second, we reflect, study, discuss with trusted friends, advisors; finally, we act, we answer the call.

I've known some professional fishermen in my life. I was born in one of our most active commercial fishing ports -- New Bedford, Massachusetts. My cousin was married to a captain of a scallop fishing boat. I always wanted to go fishing with Frank and his crew. They would go out to sea for a week or so; up to the north Atlantic; in every season. My wife thought I was crazy. And unfortunately, Frank died of a heart attack in mid-life.

And one of my best friend's father was a captain of a large sport fishing boat. In the winter, he would be in Florida fishing. In the summer, Captain Jack and his crew would be in New England. One summer, I went out with them on the first day of a sword fishing tournament, leaving around 4:30 a.m. in the dark and not getting back until after dark in the early evening since we had to go many miles off shore to get to the Gulf Stream to try to catch sword fish.

Jack and Frank and the other real fishermen I've known have taught me the skills, the character traits necessary for fishing – the same that are necessary for faithful discipleship as we hope to follow Jesus.

1. Patience
2. Practical, common sense
3. Hard work
4. Taking calculated chances, risks
5. Generosity

This is how the first disciples followed. This is how we hope to follow.

Matthew 4:12-23

Called

This has been quite a week; the MLK celebrations, the build up to the Inauguration, last Friday's swearing in of our 45th President, yesterday's amazing turn out for the march in D.C., and all the marches around the nation and the world! At Grace Church, we had a 3-day work week to compile over 20 reports into our Annual Report for 2016 and to prepare all the materials for today's Annual Meeting. Perhaps you, in your own personal lives, have also had quite a week?

As we consider these first called to follow Jesus we think about how our new President is called. We wonder what former President Obama will do with the rest of his life. We think about all those called to make some kind of witness yesterday. And, as always on the day of our Annual Meeting, we consider our call at Grace Church to be disciples, stewards, witnesses, ministers of the "good news" of Jesus Christ.

I'm fascinated by the energy, the motivation behind a call. How do we figure out a call, from what to what? Who calls? How do we hear a call? Are we sure it's a call from God? Are we hearing our own voice calling? Or the voice of the world, or even of Satan?

One commentator, writing about the call to the first disciples, describes Jesus' "irresistible authority" and the disciples' "radical obedience." Do we know, do we hear this "irresistible authority"? Do we respond with "radical obedience"?

I find it is so important that the first to answer the call to follow Jesus were fisherman. They show us that answering a call is really a 3-step process: first, we listen, pray; second, we reflect, study, discuss with trusted friends, advisors; finally, we act, we answer the call.

I've known some professional fishermen in my life. I was born in one of our most active commercial fishing ports -- New Bedford, Massachusetts. My cousin was married to a captain of a scallop fishing boat. I always wanted to go fishing with Frank and his crew. They would go out to sea for a week or so; up to the north Atlantic; in every season. My wife thought I was crazy. And unfortunately, Frank died of a heart attack in mid-life.

And one of my best friend's father was a captain of a large sport fishing boat. In the winter, he would be in Florida fishing. In the summer, Captain Jack and his crew would be in New England. One summer, I went out with them on the first day of a sword fishing tournament, leaving around 4:30 a.m. in the dark and not getting back until after dark in the early evening since we had to go many miles off shore to get to the Gulf Stream to try to catch sword fish.

Jack and Frank and the other real fishermen I've known have taught me the skills, the character traits necessary for fishing – the same that are necessary for faithful discipleship as we hope to follow Jesus.

1. Patience
2. Practical, common sense
3. Hard work
4. Taking calculated chances, risks
5. Generosity

This is how the first disciples followed. This is how we hope to follow.

Matthew 4:12-23

Called

This has been quite a week; the MLK celebrations, the build up to the Inauguration, last Friday's swearing in of our 45th President, yesterday's amazing turn out for the march in D.C., and all the marches around the nation and the world! At Grace Church, we had a 3-day work week to compile over 20 reports into our Annual Report for 2016 and to prepare all the materials for today's Annual Meeting. Perhaps you, in your own personal lives, have also had quite a week?

As we consider these first called to follow Jesus we think about how our new President is called. We wonder what former President Obama will do with the rest of his life. We think about all those called to make some kind of witness yesterday. And, as always on the day of our Annual Meeting, we consider our call at Grace Church to be disciples, stewards, witnesses, ministers of the "good news" of Jesus Christ.

I'm fascinated by the energy, the motivation behind a call. How do we figure out a call, from what to what? Who calls? How do we hear a call? Are we sure it's a call from God? Are we hearing our own voice calling? Or the voice of the world, or even of Satan?

One commentator, writing about the call to the first disciples, describes Jesus' "irresistible authority" and the disciples' "radical obedience." Do we know, do we hear this "irresistible authority"? Do we respond with "radical obedience"?

I find it is so important that the first to answer the call to follow Jesus were fisherman. They show us that answering a call is really a 3-step process: first, we listen, pray; second, we reflect, study, discuss with trusted friends, advisors; finally, we act, we answer the call.

I've known some professional fishermen in my life. I was born in one of our most active commercial fishing ports -- New Bedford, Massachusetts. My cousin was married to a captain of a scallop fishing boat. I always wanted to go fishing with Frank and his crew. They would go out to sea for a week or so; up to the north Atlantic; in every season. My wife thought I was crazy. And unfortunately, Frank died of a heart attack in mid-life.

And one of my best friend's father was a captain of a large sport fishing boat. In the winter, he would be in Florida fishing. In the summer, Captain Jack and his crew would be in New England. One summer, I went out with them on the first day of a sword fishing tournament, leaving around 4:30 a.m. in the dark and not getting back until after dark in the early evening since we had to go many miles off shore to get to the Gulf Stream to try to catch sword fish.

Jack and Frank and the other real fishermen I've known have taught me the skills, the character traits necessary for fishing – the same that are necessary for faithful discipleship as we hope to follow Jesus.

1. Patience
2. Practical, common sense
3. Hard work
4. Taking calculated chances, risks
5. Generosity

This is how the first disciples followed. This is how we hope to follow.

Matthew 4:12-23

Called

This has been quite a week; the MLK celebrations, the build up to the Inauguration, last Friday's swearing in of our 45th President, yesterday's amazing turn out for the march in D.C., and all the marches around the nation and the world! At Grace Church, we had a 3-day work week to compile over 20 reports into our Annual Report for 2016 and to prepare all the materials for today's Annual Meeting. Perhaps you, in your own personal lives, have also had quite a week?

As we consider these first called to follow Jesus we think about how our new President is called. We wonder what former President Obama will do with the rest of his life. We think about all those called to make some kind of witness yesterday. And, as always on the day of our Annual Meeting, we consider our call at Grace Church to be disciples, stewards, witnesses, ministers of the "good news" of Jesus Christ.

I'm fascinated by the energy, the motivation behind a call. How do we figure out a call, from what to what? Who calls? How do we hear a call? Are we sure it's a call from God? Are we hearing our own voice calling? Or the voice of the world, or even of Satan?

One commentator, writing about the call to the first disciples, describes Jesus' "irresistible authority" and the disciples' "radical obedience." Do we know, do we hear this "irresistible authority"? Do we respond with "radical obedience"?

I find it is so important that the first to answer the call to follow Jesus were fisherman. They show us that answering a call is really a 3-step process: first, we listen, pray; second, we reflect, study, discuss with trusted friends, advisors; finally, we act, we answer the call.

I've known some professional fishermen in my life. I was born in one of our most active commercial fishing ports -- New Bedford, Massachusetts. My cousin was married to a captain of a scallop fishing boat. I always wanted to go fishing with Frank and his crew. They would go out to sea for a week or so; up to the north Atlantic; in every season. My wife thought I was crazy. And unfortunately, Frank died of a heart attack in mid-life.

And one of my best friend's father was a captain of a large sport fishing boat. In the winter, he would be in Florida fishing. In the summer, Captain Jack and his crew would be in New England. One summer, I went out with them on the first day of a sword fishing tournament, leaving around 4:30 a.m. in the dark and not getting back until after dark in the early evening since we had to go many miles off shore to get to the Gulf Stream to try to catch sword fish.

Jack and Frank and the other real fishermen I've known have taught me the skills, the character traits necessary for fishing – the same that are necessary for faithful discipleship as we hope to follow Jesus.

1. Patience
2. Practical, common sense
3. Hard work
4. Taking calculated chances, risks
5. Generosity

This is how the first disciples followed. This is how we hope to follow.

Matthew 4:12-23

Called

This has been quite a week; the MLK celebrations, the build up to the Inauguration, last Friday's swearing in of our 45th President, yesterday's amazing turn out for the march in D.C., and all the marches around the nation and the world! At Grace Church, we had a 3-day work week to compile over 20 reports into our Annual Report for 2016 and to prepare all the materials for today's Annual Meeting. Perhaps you, in your own personal lives, have also had quite a week?

As we consider these first called to follow Jesus we think about how our new President is called. We wonder what former President Obama will do with the rest of his life. We think about all those called to make some kind of witness yesterday. And, as always on the day of our Annual Meeting, we consider our call at Grace Church to be disciples, stewards, witnesses, ministers of the "good news" of Jesus Christ.

I'm fascinated by the energy, the motivation behind a call. How do we figure out a call, from what to what? Who calls? How do we hear a call? Are we sure it's a call from God? Are we hearing our own voice calling? Or the voice of the world, or even of Satan?

One commentator, writing about the call to the first disciples, describes Jesus' "irresistible authority" and the disciples' "radical obedience." Do we know, do we hear this "irresistible authority"? Do we respond with "radical obedience"?

I find it is so important that the first to answer the call to follow Jesus were fisherman. They show us that answering a call is really a 3-step process: first, we listen, pray; second, we reflect, study, discuss with trusted friends, advisors; finally, we act, we answer the call.

I've known some professional fishermen in my life. I was born in one of our most active commercial fishing ports -- New Bedford, Massachusetts. My cousin was married to a captain of a scallop fishing boat. I always wanted to go fishing with Frank and his crew. They would go out to sea for a week or so; up to the north Atlantic; in every season. My wife thought I was crazy. And unfortunately, Frank died of a heart attack in mid-life.

And one of my best friend's father was a captain of a large sport fishing boat. In the winter, he would be in Florida fishing. In the summer, Captain Jack and his crew would be in New England. One summer, I went out with them on the first day of a sword fishing tournament, leaving around 4:30 a.m. in the dark and not getting back until after dark in the early evening since we had to go many miles off shore to get to the Gulf Stream to try to catch sword fish.

Jack and Frank and the other real fishermen I've known have taught me the skills, the character traits necessary for fishing – the same that are necessary for faithful discipleship as we hope to follow Jesus.

1. Patience
2. Practical, common sense
3. Hard work
4. Taking calculated chances, risks
5. Generosity

This is how the first disciples followed. This is how we hope to follow.

Matthew 4:12-23

Called

This has been quite a week; the MLK celebrations, the build up to the Inauguration, last Friday's swearing in of our 45th President, yesterday's amazing turn out for the march in D.C., and all the marches around the nation and the world! At Grace Church, we had a 3-day work week to compile over 20 reports into our Annual Report for 2016 and to prepare all the materials for today's Annual Meeting. Perhaps you, in your own personal lives, have also had quite a week?

As we consider these first called to follow Jesus we think about how our new President is called. We wonder what former President Obama will do with the rest of his life. We think about all those called to make some kind of witness yesterday. And, as always on the day of our Annual Meeting, we consider our call at Grace Church to be disciples, stewards, witnesses, ministers of the "good news" of Jesus Christ.

I'm fascinated by the energy, the motivation behind a call. How do we figure out a call, from what to what? Who calls? How do we hear a call? Are we sure it's a call from God? Are we hearing our own voice calling? Or the voice of the world, or even of Satan?

One commentator, writing about the call to the first disciples, describes Jesus' "irresistible authority" and the disciples' "radical obedience." Do we know, do we hear this "irresistible authority"? Do we respond with "radical obedience"?

I find it is so important that the first to answer the call to follow Jesus were fisherman. They show us that answering a call is really a 3-step process: first, we listen, pray; second, we reflect, study, discuss with trusted friends, advisors; finally, we act, we answer the call.

I've known some professional fishermen in my life. I was born in one of our most active commercial fishing ports -- New Bedford, Massachusetts. My cousin was married to a captain of a scallop fishing boat. I always wanted to go fishing with Frank and his crew. They would go out to sea for a week or so; up to the north Atlantic; in every season. My wife thought I was crazy. And unfortunately, Frank died of a heart attack in mid-life.

And one of my best friend's father was a captain of a large sport fishing boat. In the winter, he would be in Florida fishing. In the summer, Captain Jack and his crew would be in New England. One summer, I went out with them on the first day of a sword fishing tournament, leaving around 4:30 a.m. in the dark and not getting back until after dark in the early evening since we had to go many miles off shore to get to the Gulf Stream to try to catch sword fish.

Jack and Frank and the other real fishermen I've known have taught me the skills, the character traits necessary for fishing – the same that are necessary for faithful discipleship as we hope to follow Jesus.

1. Patience
2. Practical, common sense
3. Hard work
4. Taking calculated chances, risks
5. Generosity

This is how the first disciples followed. This is how we hope to follow.

Matthew 4:12-23

Called

This has been quite a week; the MLK celebrations, the build up to the Inauguration, last Friday's swearing in of our 45th President, yesterday's amazing turn out for the march in D.C., and all the marches around the nation and the world! At Grace Church, we had a 3-day work week to compile over 20 reports into our Annual Report for 2016 and to prepare all the materials for today's Annual Meeting. Perhaps you, in your own personal lives, have also had quite a week?

As we consider these first called to follow Jesus we think about how our new President is called. We wonder what former President Obama will do with the rest of his life. We think about all those called to make some kind of witness yesterday. And, as always on the day of our Annual Meeting, we consider our call at Grace Church to be disciples, stewards, witnesses, ministers of the "good news" of Jesus Christ.

I'm fascinated by the energy, the motivation behind a call. How do we figure out a call, from what to what? Who calls? How do we hear a call? Are we sure it's a call from God? Are we hearing our own voice calling? Or the voice of the world, or even of Satan?

One commentator, writing about the call to the first disciples, describes Jesus' "irresistible authority" and the disciples' "radical obedience." Do we know, do we hear this "irresistible authority"? Do we respond with "radical obedience"?

I find it is so important that the first to answer the call to follow Jesus were fisherman. They show us that answering a call is really a 3-step process: first, we listen, pray; second, we reflect, study, discuss with trusted friends, advisors; finally, we act, we answer the call.

I've known some professional fishermen in my life. I was born in one of our most active commercial fishing ports -- New Bedford, Massachusetts. My cousin was married to a captain of a scallop fishing boat. I always wanted to go fishing with Frank and his crew. They would go out to sea for a week or so; up to the north Atlantic; in every season. My wife thought I was crazy. And unfortunately, Frank died of a heart attack in mid-life.

And one of my best friend's father was a captain of a large sport fishing boat. In the winter, he would be in Florida fishing. In the summer, Captain Jack and his crew would be in New England. One summer, I went out with them on the first day of a sword fishing tournament, leaving around 4:30 a.m. in the dark and not getting back until after dark in the early evening since we had to go many miles off shore to get to the Gulf Stream to try to catch sword fish.

Jack and Frank and the other real fishermen I've known have taught me the skills, the character traits necessary for fishing – the same that are necessary for faithful discipleship as we hope to follow Jesus.

1. Patience
2. Practical, common sense
3. Hard work
4. Taking calculated chances, risks
5. Generosity

This is how the first disciples followed. This is how we hope to follow.

Matthew 4:12-23

Called

This has been quite a week; the MLK celebrations, the build up to the Inauguration, last Friday's swearing in of our 45th President, yesterday's amazing turn out for the march in D.C., and all the marches around the nation and the world! At Grace Church, we had a 3-day work week to compile over 20 reports into our Annual Report for 2016 and to prepare all the materials for today's Annual Meeting. Perhaps you, in your own personal lives, have also had quite a week?

As we consider these first called to follow Jesus we think about how our new President is called. We wonder what former President Obama will do with the rest of his life. We think about all those called to make some kind of witness yesterday. And, as always on the day of our Annual Meeting, we consider our call at Grace Church to be disciples, stewards, witnesses, ministers of the "good news" of Jesus Christ.

I'm fascinated by the energy, the motivation behind a call. How do we figure out a call, from what to what? Who calls? How do we hear a call? Are we sure it's a call from God? Are we hearing our own voice calling? Or the voice of the world, or even of Satan?

One commentator, writing about the call to the first disciples, describes Jesus' "irresistible authority" and the disciples' "radical obedience." Do we know, do we hear this "irresistible authority"? Do we respond with "radical obedience"?

I find it is so important that the first to answer the call to follow Jesus were fisherman. They show us that answering a call is really a 3-step process: first, we listen, pray; second, we reflect, study, discuss with trusted friends, advisors; finally, we act, we answer the call.

I've known some professional fishermen in my life. I was born in one of our most active commercial fishing ports -- New Bedford, Massachusetts. My cousin was married to a captain of a scallop fishing boat. I always wanted to go fishing with Frank and his crew. They would go out to sea for a week or so; up to the north Atlantic; in every season. My wife thought I was crazy. And unfortunately, Frank died of a heart attack in mid-life.

And one of my best friend's father was a captain of a large sport fishing boat. In the winter, he would be in Florida fishing. In the summer, Captain Jack and his crew would be in New England. One summer, I went out with them on the first day of a sword fishing tournament, leaving around 4:30 a.m. in the dark and not getting back until after dark in the early evening since we had to go many miles off shore to get to the Gulf Stream to try to catch sword fish.

Jack and Frank and the other real fishermen I've known have taught me the skills, the character traits necessary for fishing – the same that are necessary for faithful discipleship as we hope to follow Jesus.

1. Patience
2. Practical, common sense
3. Hard work
4. Taking calculated chances, risks
5. Generosity

This is how the first disciples followed. This is how we hope to follow.

Matthew 4:12-23

Called

This has been quite a week; the MLK celebrations, the build up to the Inauguration, last Friday's swearing in of our 45th President, yesterday's amazing turn out for the march in D.C., and all the marches around the nation and the world! At Grace Church, we had a 3-day work week to compile over 20 reports into our Annual Report for 2016 and to prepare all the materials for today's Annual Meeting. Perhaps you, in your own personal lives, have also had quite a week?

As we consider these first called to follow Jesus we think about how our new President is called. We wonder what former President Obama will do with the rest of his life. We think about all those called to make some kind of witness yesterday. And, as always on the day of our Annual Meeting, we consider our call at Grace Church to be disciples, stewards, witnesses, ministers of the "good news" of Jesus Christ.

I'm fascinated by the energy, the motivation behind a call. How do we figure out a call, from what to what? Who calls? How do we hear a call? Are we sure it's a call from God? Are we hearing our own voice calling? Or the voice of the world, or even of Satan?

One commentator, writing about the call to the first disciples, describes Jesus' "irresistible authority" and the disciples' "radical obedience." Do we know, do we hear this "irresistible authority"? Do we respond with "radical obedience"?

I find it is so important that the first to answer the call to follow Jesus were fisherman. They show us that answering a call is really a 3-step process: first, we listen, pray; second, we reflect, study, discuss with trusted friends, advisors; finally, we act, we answer the call.

I've known some professional fishermen in my life. I was born in one of our most active commercial fishing ports -- New Bedford, Massachusetts. My cousin was married to a captain of a scallop fishing boat. I always wanted to go fishing with Frank and his crew. They would go out to sea for a week or so; up to the north Atlantic; in every season. My wife thought I was crazy. And unfortunately, Frank died of a heart attack in mid-life.

And one of my best friend's father was a captain of a large sport fishing boat. In the winter, he would be in Florida fishing. In the summer, Captain Jack and his crew would be in New England. One summer, I went out with them on the first day of a sword fishing tournament, leaving around 4:30 a.m. in the dark and not getting back until after dark in the early evening since we had to go many miles off shore to get to the Gulf Stream to try to catch sword fish.

Jack and Frank and the other real fishermen I've known have taught me the skills, the character traits necessary for fishing – the same that are necessary for faithful discipleship as we hope to follow Jesus.

1. Patience
2. Practical, common sense
3. Hard work
4. Taking calculated chances, risks
5. Generosity

This is how the first disciples followed. This is how we hope to follow.

Matthew 4:12-23

Called

This has been quite a week; the MLK celebrations, the build up to the Inauguration, last Friday's swearing in of our 45th President, yesterday's amazing turn out for the march in D.C., and all the marches around the nation and the world! At Grace Church, we had a 3-day work week to compile over 20 reports into our Annual Report for 2016 and to prepare all the materials for today's Annual Meeting. Perhaps you, in your own personal lives, have also had quite a week?

As we consider these first called to follow Jesus we think about how our new President is called. We wonder what former President Obama will do with the rest of his life. We think about all those called to make some kind of witness yesterday. And, as always on the day of our Annual Meeting, we consider our call at Grace Church to be disciples, stewards, witnesses, ministers of the "good news" of Jesus Christ.

I'm fascinated by the energy, the motivation behind a call. How do we figure out a call, from what to what? Who calls? How do we hear a call? Are we sure it's a call from God? Are we hearing our own voice calling? Or the voice of the world, or even of Satan?

One commentator, writing about the call to the first disciples, describes Jesus' "irresistible authority" and the disciples' "radical obedience." Do we know, do we hear this "irresistible authority"? Do we respond with "radical obedience"?

I find it is so important that the first to answer the call to follow Jesus were fisherman. They show us that answering a call is really a 3-step process: first, we listen, pray; second, we reflect, study, discuss with trusted friends, advisors; finally, we act, we answer the call.

I've known some professional fishermen in my life. I was born in one of our most active commercial fishing ports -- New Bedford, Massachusetts. My cousin was married to a captain of a scallop fishing boat. I always wanted to go fishing with Frank and his crew. They would go out to sea for a week or so; up to the north Atlantic; in every season. My wife thought I was crazy. And unfortunately, Frank died of a heart attack in mid-life.

And one of my best friend's father was a captain of a large sport fishing boat. In the winter, he would be in Florida fishing. In the summer, Captain Jack and his crew would be in New England. One summer, I went out with them on the first day of a sword fishing tournament, leaving around 4:30 a.m. in the dark and not getting back until after dark in the early evening since we had to go many miles off shore to get to the Gulf Stream to try to catch sword fish.

Jack and Frank and the other real fishermen I've known have taught me the skills, the character traits necessary for fishing – the same that are necessary for faithful discipleship as we hope to follow Jesus.

1. Patience
2. Practical, common sense
3. Hard work
4. Taking calculated chances, risks
5. Generosity

This is how the first disciples followed. This is how we hope to follow.

Matthew 4:12-23

Called

This has been quite a week; the MLK celebrations, the build up to the Inauguration, last Friday's swearing in of our 45th President, yesterday's amazing turn out for the march in D.C., and all the marches around the nation and the world! At Grace Church, we had a 3-day work week to compile over 20 reports into our Annual Report for 2016 and to prepare all the materials for today's Annual Meeting. Perhaps you, in your own personal lives, have also had quite a week?

As we consider these first called to follow Jesus we think about how our new President is called. We wonder what former President Obama will do with the rest of his life. We think about all those called to make some kind of witness yesterday. And, as always on the day of our Annual Meeting, we consider our call at Grace Church to be disciples, stewards, witnesses, ministers of the "good news" of Jesus Christ.

I'm fascinated by the energy, the motivation behind a call. How do we figure out a call, from what to what? Who calls? How do we hear a call? Are we sure it's a call from God? Are we hearing our own voice calling? Or the voice of the world, or even of Satan?

One commentator, writing about the call to the first disciples, describes Jesus' "irresistible authority" and the disciples' "radical obedience." Do we know, do we hear this "irresistible authority"? Do we respond with "radical obedience"?

I find it is so important that the first to answer the call to follow Jesus were fisherman. They show us that answering a call is really a 3-step process: first, we listen, pray; second, we reflect, study, discuss with trusted friends, advisors; finally, we act, we answer the call.

I've known some professional fishermen in my life. I was born in one of our most active commercial fishing ports -- New Bedford, Massachusetts. My cousin was married to a captain of a scallop fishing boat. I always wanted to go fishing with Frank and his crew. They would go out to sea for a week or so; up to the north Atlantic; in every season. My wife thought I was crazy. And unfortunately, Frank died of a heart attack in mid-life.

And one of my best friend's father was a captain of a large sport fishing boat. In the winter, he would be in Florida fishing. In the summer, Captain Jack and his crew would be in New England. One summer, I went out with them on the first day of a sword fishing tournament, leaving around 4:30 a.m. in the dark and not getting back until after dark in the early evening since we had to go many miles off shore to get to the Gulf Stream to try to catch sword fish.

Jack and Frank and the other real fishermen I've known have taught me the skills, the character traits necessary for fishing – the same that are necessary for faithful discipleship as we hope to follow Jesus.

1. Patience
2. Practical, common sense
3. Hard work
4. Taking calculated chances, risks
5. Generosity

This is how the first disciples followed. This is how we hope to follow.

Matthew 4:12-23

Called

This has been quite a week; the MLK celebrations, the build up to the Inauguration, last Friday's swearing in of our 45th President, yesterday's amazing turn out for the march in D.C., and all the marches around the nation and the world! At Grace Church, we had a 3-day work week to compile over 20 reports into our Annual Report for 2016 and to prepare all the materials for today's Annual Meeting. Perhaps you, in your own personal lives, have also had quite a week?

As we consider these first called to follow Jesus we think about how our new President is called. We wonder what former President Obama will do with the rest of his life. We think about all those called to make some kind of witness yesterday. And, as always on the day of our Annual Meeting, we consider our call at Grace Church to be disciples, stewards, witnesses, ministers of the "good news" of Jesus Christ.

I'm fascinated by the energy, the motivation behind a call. How do we figure out a call, from what to what? Who calls? How do we hear a call? Are we sure it's a call from God? Are we hearing our own voice calling? Or the voice of the world, or even of Satan?

One commentator, writing about the call to the first disciples, describes Jesus' "irresistible authority" and the disciples' "radical obedience." Do we know, do we hear this "irresistible authority"? Do we respond with "radical obedience"?

I find it is so important that the first to answer the call to follow Jesus were fisherman. They show us that answering a call is really a 3-step process: first, we listen, pray; second, we reflect, study, discuss with trusted friends, advisors; finally, we act, we answer the call.

I've known some professional fishermen in my life. I was born in one of our most active commercial fishing ports -- New Bedford, Massachusetts. My cousin was married to a captain of a scallop fishing boat. I always wanted to go fishing with Frank and his crew. They would go out to sea for a week or so; up to the north Atlantic; in every season. My wife thought I was crazy. And unfortunately, Frank died of a heart attack in mid-life.

And one of my best friend's father was a captain of a large sport fishing boat. In the winter, he would be in Florida fishing. In the summer, Captain Jack and his crew would be in New England. One summer, I went out with them on the first day of a sword fishing tournament, leaving around 4:30 a.m. in the dark and not getting back until after dark in the early evening since we had to go many miles off shore to get to the Gulf Stream to try to catch sword fish.

Jack and Frank and the other real fishermen I've known have taught me the skills, the character traits necessary for fishing – the same that are necessary for faithful discipleship as we hope to follow Jesus.

1. Patience
2. Practical, common sense
3. Hard work
4. Taking calculated chances, risks
5. Generosity

This is how the first disciples followed. This is how we hope to follow.

Matthew 4:12-23

Called

This has been quite a week; the MLK celebrations, the build up to the Inauguration, last Friday's swearing in of our 45th President, yesterday's amazing turn out for the march in D.C., and all the marches around the nation and the world! At Grace Church, we had a 3-day work week to compile over 20 reports into our Annual Report for 2016 and to prepare all the materials for today's Annual Meeting. Perhaps you, in your own personal lives, have also had quite a week?

As we consider these first called to follow Jesus we think about how our new President is called. We wonder what former President Obama will do with the rest of his life. We think about all those called to make some kind of witness yesterday. And, as always on the day of our Annual Meeting, we consider our call at Grace Church to be disciples, stewards, witnesses, ministers of the "good news" of Jesus Christ.

I'm fascinated by the energy, the motivation behind a call. How do we figure out a call, from what to what? Who calls? How do we hear a call? Are we sure it's a call from God? Are we hearing our own voice calling? Or the voice of the world, or even of Satan?

One commentator, writing about the call to the first disciples, describes Jesus' "irresistible authority" and the disciples' "radical obedience." Do we know, do we hear this "irresistible authority"? Do we respond with "radical obedience"?

I find it is so important that the first to answer the call to follow Jesus were fisherman. They show us that answering a call is really a 3-step process: first, we listen, pray; second, we reflect, study, discuss with trusted friends, advisors; finally, we act, we answer the call.

I've known some professional fishermen in my life. I was born in one of our most active commercial fishing ports -- New Bedford, Massachusetts. My cousin was married to a captain of a scallop fishing boat. I always wanted to go fishing with Frank and his crew. They would go out to sea for a week or so; up to the north Atlantic; in every season. My wife thought I was crazy. And unfortunately, Frank died of a heart attack in mid-life.

And one of my best friend's father was a captain of a large sport fishing boat. In the winter, he would be in Florida fishing. In the summer, Captain Jack and his crew would be in New England. One summer, I went out with them on the first day of a sword fishing tournament, leaving around 4:30 a.m. in the dark and not getting back until after dark in the early evening since we had to go many miles off shore to get to the Gulf Stream to try to catch sword fish.

Jack and Frank and the other real fishermen I've known have taught me the skills, the character traits necessary for fishing – the same that are necessary for faithful discipleship as we hope to follow Jesus.

1. Patience
2. Practical, common sense
3. Hard work
4. Taking calculated chances, risks
5. Generosity

This is how the first disciples followed. This is how we hope to follow.

Matthew 4:12-23

Called

This has been quite a week; the MLK celebrations, the build up to the Inauguration, last Friday's swearing in of our 45th President, yesterday's amazing turn out for the march in D.C., and all the marches around the nation and the world! At Grace Church, we had a 3-day work week to compile over 20 reports into our Annual Report for 2016 and to prepare all the materials for today's Annual Meeting. Perhaps you, in your own personal lives, have also had quite a week?

As we consider these first called to follow Jesus we think about how our new President is called. We wonder what former President Obama will do with the rest of his life. We think about all those called to make some kind of witness yesterday. And, as always on the day of our Annual Meeting, we consider our call at Grace Church to be disciples, stewards, witnesses, ministers of the "good news" of Jesus Christ.

I'm fascinated by the energy, the motivation behind a call. How do we figure out a call, from what to what? Who calls? How do we hear a call? Are we sure it's a call from God? Are we hearing our own voice calling? Or the voice of the world, or even of Satan?

One commentator, writing about the call to the first disciples, describes Jesus' "irresistible authority" and the disciples' "radical obedience." Do we know, do we hear this "irresistible authority"? Do we respond with "radical obedience"?

I find it is so important that the first to answer the call to follow Jesus were fisherman. They show us that answering a call is really a 3-step process: first, we listen, pray; second, we reflect, study, discuss with trusted friends, advisors; finally, we act, we answer the call.

I've known some professional fishermen in my life. I was born in one of our most active commercial fishing ports -- New Bedford, Massachusetts. My cousin was married to a captain of a scallop fishing boat. I always wanted to go fishing with Frank and his crew. They would go out to sea for a week or so; up to the north Atlantic; in every season. My wife thought I was crazy. And unfortunately, Frank died of a heart attack in mid-life.

And one of my best friend's father was a captain of a large sport fishing boat. In the winter, he would be in Florida fishing. In the summer, Captain Jack and his crew would be in New England. One summer, I went out with them on the first day of a sword fishing tournament, leaving around 4:30 a.m. in the dark and not getting back until after dark in the early evening since we had to go many miles off shore to get to the Gulf Stream to try to catch sword fish.

Jack and Frank and the other real fishermen I've known have taught me the skills, the character traits necessary for fishing – the same that are necessary for faithful discipleship as we hope to follow Jesus.

1. Patience
2. Practical, common sense
3. Hard work
4. Taking calculated chances, risks
5. Generosity

This is how the first disciples followed. This is how we hope to follow.

Matthew 4:12-23

Called

This has been quite a week; the MLK celebrations, the build up to the Inauguration, last Friday's swearing in of our 45th President, yesterday's amazing turn out for the march in D.C., and all the marches around the nation and the world! At Grace Church, we had a 3-day work week to compile over 20 reports into our Annual Report for 2016 and to prepare all the materials for today's Annual Meeting. Perhaps you, in your own personal lives, have also had quite a week?

As we consider these first called to follow Jesus we think about how our new President is called. We wonder what former President Obama will do with the rest of his life. We think about all those called to make some kind of witness yesterday. And, as always on the day of our Annual Meeting, we consider our call at Grace Church to be disciples, stewards, witnesses, ministers of the "good news" of Jesus Christ.

I'm fascinated by the energy, the motivation behind a call. How do we figure out a call, from what to what? Who calls? How do we hear a call? Are we sure it's a call from God? Are we hearing our own voice calling? Or the voice of the world, or even of Satan?

One commentator, writing about the call to the first disciples, describes Jesus' "irresistible authority" and the disciples' "radical obedience." Do we know, do we hear this "irresistible authority"? Do we respond with "radical obedience"?

I find it is so important that the first to answer the call to follow Jesus were fisherman. They show us that answering a call is really a 3-step process: first, we listen, pray; second, we reflect, study, discuss with trusted friends, advisors; finally, we act, we answer the call.

I've known some professional fishermen in my life. I was born in one of our most active commercial fishing ports -- New Bedford, Massachusetts. My cousin was married to a captain of a scallop fishing boat. I always wanted to go fishing with Frank and his crew. They would go out to sea for a week or so; up to the north Atlantic; in every season. My wife thought I was crazy. And unfortunately, Frank died of a heart attack in mid-life.

And one of my best friend's father was a captain of a large sport fishing boat. In the winter, he would be in Florida fishing. In the summer, Captain Jack and his crew would be in New England. One summer, I went out with them on the first day of a sword fishing tournament, leaving around 4:30 a.m. in the dark and not getting back until after dark in the early evening since we had to go many miles off shore to get to the Gulf Stream to try to catch sword fish.

Jack and Frank and the other real fishermen I've known have taught me the skills, the character traits necessary for fishing – the same that are necessary for faithful discipleship as we hope to follow Jesus.

1. Patience
2. Practical, common sense
3. Hard work
4. Taking calculated chances, risks
5. Generosity

This is how the first disciples followed. This is how we hope to follow.

Matthew 4:12-23