

Let's Go Fishing

Mark 1:16-20

I. Introduction

- A. Winning a soul to Christ in the apex, peak, or climax of Christian experience.
- B. Unfortunately, most Christians will never experience this spiritual high.
- C. The Bible says there is joy in heaven when one person accepts Christ.
 - 1. It does not say anything about joy when we raise a lot of money, fill the pews, build great buildings, or preach powerful sermons.
- D. Today's text is concerning Jesus' great mandate for the Church. Go out and win souls.
 - 1. The next three points should prepare all of us to go fishing for lost souls.

II. Resist Conforming to the World

- A. The Church cannot be like the people we are trying to catch.
 - 1. There must be a difference between the fish and the fisherman.
 - 2. Some Christians pattern their lives after the world so well we cannot tell the difference between saint and sinner.
 - 3. Worldliness hurts our witness and testimony.
- B. To follow Jesus means to be a part of His party, be a companion, or to follow along side closely.
 - 1. It does not leave any room for worldliness.
- C. To follow Jesus means to be different from the rest of the world because Jesus was a radical and not a conformist.
 - 1. Look at what Jesus did:
 - ❖ His first miracle was at a party
 - ❖ He healed on the Sabbath
 - ❖ He touched lepers
 - ❖ He forgave prostitutes
 - ❖ He hung out with tax collectors
 - ❖ He commanded demons
 - ❖ He rebuked the wind and waves
- D. The world system uses the media to conform us to its likeness and image. But as Christians we should not follow trends but set them.
 - 1. The Church should be a thermostat and not a thermometer.

Story: Painting old shoes and wearing them to school.

III. Rely on the Transforming Power of Christ

- A. Only Jesus can take us from where we are and bring us to where He wants us to be.
 - 1. Peter and Andrew started out as fishermen but Jesus would transform them into “fishers of men”.
- B. The word “make” in the text mean “to cause to be”.
 - 1. It does not imply force or coercion.
 - 2. It means He will fashion and transform them.
 - 3. Like the idea of sculpturing or molding into something special.
 - 4. This transformation is a process and does not happen instantly like salvation. Jesus would spend the next 3 years transforming them into *fishers of men*.
- C. Unfortunately, most Christians do not want to change.
 - 1. They prefer to stay in the comfort zone of defeat than take a chance in being victorious.

Illustration: We are like the two caterpillars walking on the ground. One looked at a beautiful butterfly flying in the sky and said, “you will never catch me in one of those things”.

Example: On the television show mild mannered Bill Bixby would go through a metamorphous and be transformed into the Hulk.

IV. Rearrange Our Schedule Around Fishing

- A. The text states “they immediately left their nets and followed Jesus”. To be *fishers of men* we must rearrange our schedules.
 - 1. They saw the importance of the call and left everything behind.
- B. We must rearrange our priorities and go fishing.

Illustration: There was a fishing trip scheduled to leave at 4:00 am. But many people dropped out of the trip when they learned the time to leave.

V. Conclusion

We have to go when and where the fish are biting. Based on the news report there are a lot of fish out there waiting to hear the good news. They are on the street corners, in apartments, at work, and in the house on they hill.

It is time to go fishing. Call a friend and organize a fishing party. One can bring a pole, another some bait, and another an ice chest. But God gets the glory. Let's Go Fishing!!!!