

Talking, Planning, and Studying Now It's Time To Go Fishing!

Introduction

1. There was a group of men **TALKING** about going fishing.
 - A. "I'd love to catch a big bass or catfish"
 - B. "I heard that they're biting over at the lake across town"
2. This same group of men begin **PLANNING** of going fishing.
 - A. "I'm going to pack a lunch before I go fishing"
 - B. "Just got my boat engine tuned up, its ready to go"
 - C. "I'll buy a new rod and reel at Wal-Mart tomorrow"
 - D. "I plan on staying all day, sun up to sun down"
3. Then this group of men were **STUDYING** about fish and fishing.
 - A. "Catfish feed on the bottom"
 - B. "Best time to go is early morning or late evening"
 - C. "Certain fish are attracted to the bait because of the smell"
4. These men continued to **TALK, PLAN, and STUDY** about fishing, but never went.
 - A. Needless to say they never caught **ONE** fish!

Bible Examples of Fishing

1. **Talking, Planning, and Studying about fishing are all good things in and of themselves.**

Mending their nets.

Matthew 4:21 Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, **mending their nets**. And He called them,

Washing their nets

Luke 5:2 and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were **washing their nets**.

- A. **However, if they never went fishing, they would will never catch any fish! A fisherman understands this:**

Matthew 4:18 And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, **casting a net into the sea**; for they were fishermen.

NOTE: What made them fishermen is because they were fishing, not because they talked about it, planned on doing it, and studied about it. One must actually go fishing in order to be called a fisherman.

- B. **Fishermen understand that there will be times when you go fishing and catch no fish.**

Luke 5:4-5 When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, **we have toiled all night and caught nothing**; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net."

Lessons Learned

1. Jesus said:

Matthew 4:19 Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

2. To everything there is a season:

Ecclesiastes 3:1 To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven:

A. A time to talk, plan, and study about being fishers of men.

- 1) The more we do of this the more effective we will be.

In preparing to fish we should:

B. Think on these things:

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy-- meditate on these things.

- 1) There can't be a more nobler thing to do than to talk, plan and study on the saving of another's soul.
- 2) We must know what to say to those we are trying to win to Christ.

1 Pet 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

1 Tim 4:16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

- a. **Telling others about the doctrine of Christ is what will save their souls if they will heed it.**
 1. **These include:**
 - a) **The story of Jesus**
 - b) **Why He came**
 - c) **What He did for man**
 - d) **What Christ expects of us**
 - **Loyalty**
 - **Obedience**
 - e) **What we must do to gain salvation**
 - **The plan of salvation**
 - f) **How we must continue to live**
3. **All these things are important (TALK, PLAN, STUDY), but to be fishers of men, **we must go fishing!****

Fishing for the Lord

1. **In order to be pleasing to God we must put our talk, plans, and study to use. Notice what the scriptures say:**

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **"Go therefore and make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **"teaching them to observe all things** that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Luke 19:10 "for the Son of Man has come to **seek and to save** that which was lost."

1 Corinthians 11:1 **Imitate me**, just as I also imitate Christ.

Romans 1:16 For **I am not ashamed of the gospel** of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

2 Corinthians 5:9-10 Therefore **we make it our aim**, whether present or absent, **to be well pleasing to Him**. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Ephesians 5:8 For you were once darkness, but **now you are light in the Lord**. Walk as children of light

Matthew 5:14-16 **"You are the light of the world**. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. **"Let your light so shine before men**, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Philippians 4:9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, **these do**, and the God of peace will be with you.

2 Timothy 2:24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, **able to teach**, patient,

Hebrews 5:12-14 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own **special people**, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

James 4:17 Therefore, to **him who knows to do good** and does not do it, to him it is sin.

2. Sometimes we may pull up our nets and they may be empty, but we can say that we have been fishing.

A. Let God have a chance.

1 Corinthians 3:6-7 **I planted, Apollos watered**, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.

3. When was the last time you have put the TALKING, PLANNING, and STUDYING to work and actually went fishing?

4. We've got to be fishing for men before we can ever tell the story of the "one that got away."

