

Fishers of Men

Introduction

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:16-20

1. In serving God not only are we required to properly manage our own lives so that we may enter Heaven, but we must also make the proper effort to save others.
2. We must fish for men or lose our souls.
3. In studying this lesson, let us notice the words of Jesus in **Mark 1:17**, that was read to us earlier as part of the scripture reading.

Mark 1:17 Then Jesus said to them, "Come after Me, and I will make you become fishers of men."

Come

1. Of the thousands of calls which man may receive, none can compare with this call from the Lord.
2. Jesus calls, but man must come, proving that man must do something to save himself.
3. The invitation is extended to all laboring under the burden and guilt of sin.

Matthew 11:28-30 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

4. The invitation requires leaving all things that hinder us from following Christ, which many are not willing to do.

Luke 9:23 Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him **deny himself**, and take up his cross daily, and **follow Me**.

John 5:39-40 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. **But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.**

After Me

1. We must follow Jesus to become fishers of men.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. **No one comes to the Father except through Me.**

2. Many who fish for men are following someone other than the Lord (human creeds, other men, etc.).

3. To come after Jesus one must become a Christian.

A. One becomes a Christian by:

1) Hearing and learning of God.

Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God **must believe that He is**, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

2) Repenting and being baptized for the remission of sins.

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

And I Will Make You Fishers of Men

1. One cannot become a fisher of men until after he becomes a Christian by obeying the gospel.

John 6:45 It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.

2. One must then continue to follow Christ after becoming a Christian if he is to "catch" men (Rev 2:10).

A. It requires a "daily" example!

3. The most Christ-like are the best fishers of men. In being steadfast one must cling to the doctrine of Christ and struggle to defend it.

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

4. One cannot continue to follow Christ and put other things before the kingdom.

Matthew 6:33 But **seek first the kingdom of God** and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Colossians 3:1-3 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. **Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.** For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

The Attitude of Fishers

- 1. So many of the members of the church do not win others to Christ simply because their attitude is not right.**
- 2. A genuine desire to serve Christ is needed to be a successful fisherman.**

Romans 6:17-18 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet **you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.** And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

- 3. To be an effective fisher of men one must realize the lost condition of those out of Christ.**

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

4. The successful fisherman knows that it takes hard work to catch fish.

- **Skill, Knowledge, Patience – spending long hours at the point.**

A. You must possess a genuine love not only for God but for your neighbor.

Matthew 22:37-39 Jesus said to him, **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.** This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

The Need of Fishers

1. Most people are lost in sin and Jesus commands that the gospel be preached to them.

Mark 16:15-16 And He said to them, **"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.** He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Matthew 28:19 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,

2. Jesus said that the fields are white unto harvest, but the laborers are few.

John 4:35-36 Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, **lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!** And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.

Luke 10:2 Then He said to them, **"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few;** therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

Conclusion:

1. **We are commanded to teach others the gospel of Christ.**
2. **We will lose our souls if we neglect our duty to teach others by both our example and our words.**

Ezekiel 3:17-19 "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me: "When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. "Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.

3. **May we all gain the enthusiasm to not only live our life for Christ but also for all of man. Every soul is precious in God's sight.**
4. **Let's do our part, the best we can, in seeking and saving the lost.**
5. **It has been said that we have two choices for the church:**
 - **EVANGELIZE or FOSSILIZE**
- A. **We decide....**

Place

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