

HOW'S THE FISHING GOING?

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

There are many activities one can do in this life and fishing is one of them. Some are more important than others, and fishing is one of them.

I used to have a hat with the words embroidered on it, "Fishing is not a matter of life and death; it is more important than that."

While that may be laughable at first, when considering the only kind of fishing most people do, it is not funny at all, but true, when it comes to the kind of fishing Jesus was talking about in the verse quoted above. Fishing for men is a serious matter indeed.

I am a man who has loved fishing a large percentage of my life. I've had some exciting experiences fishing for fish and I've had some that are even far more exciting while fishing for men. I've traveled around the world fishing for both.

I've gone to various provinces in Canada on fly-in trips fishing for northern pike, smallmouth bass, walleye, lake trout, arctic grayling, and sturgeon. I've traveled to Honduras for largemouth bass and Venezuela for peacock bass and payara (a saber-tooth flesh eating fish). I traveled some 10,000 miles each way to catch a tiger

fish in Zimbabwe and again two years later to reel in some Nile perch from Lake Victoria in Kenya. I've taken my fishing seriously.

Just as I've taken my fishing for fish seriously, I do the same with fishing for men. In fact, fishing for men has become such a consuming activity for me that it has now been more than 21 years since my last fishing trip for fish. My last fishing trip for fish was in 1994.

There are many similarities when fishing for fish or men. I have no doubt that what I learned while fishing for fish has helped me a great deal as I have fished for men. Allow me to share some of those lessons with you.

As I have prepared to go on a fishing trip for fish, I've given considerable thought and preparation to the following:

- The habits of the fish I am after
- The best bait or lures to gain their interest
- The best way to reach them
- The best time to reach them
- What to do once they are on the line
- What equipment will assist me to be more effective?
- What will I do to land them?
- What will I do with them after I land them?
- Will I go alone or take someone with me?

Yes, these are important considerations and I have spent a lot of time in preparation as I have approached my fishing activities, whether they were for fish or men.

The majority of Christians have never considered themselves as fishers of men. Even though Jesus proclaimed that those who follow him would become fishers of men, most ignore those words. "Fishing," they say, "is not their gift."

Please note that Jesus did not say anything about it being a gift. He said, "I will make you fishers of men." Was he mistaken? Surely, he was not lying! It must be then, if we are not fishing for men, we are not following him.

If you are not following Jesus in this way, I must ask, and encourage you to ask yourself, Do you want to become a fisher of men?

The truth is that it is relatively simple. The first thing one needs is to want to do it. If you want to do it, you are half way there.

You primarily need two things;

- 1) Preparation
- 2) Strength

Both are readily available to you.

Consider what the lepers in 2 Kings 7 said as they recognized their great find. They had been starving, along with the rest of Israel, and God had chased their enemy off, leaving behind a vast amount of food and treasure. Initially, they were hiding it and keeping it for themselves and then they said to one another:

"We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, and we remain silent."

(2 Kings 7:9)

Could this be true of us? Do we remain silent? Do we allow those we know to

continue to march towards an eternity in hell without Jesus when the gift of eternal life is there for the taking?

Most of us say we would never notice our neighbor's house on fire at night without doing everything we could to attempt to awaken them so they could flee to safety. I believe that is true. Why then do we remain silent when a fate far worse than dying in a house fire awaits those who will enter eternity without Jesus as their Savior?

Could it be that we have allowed Satan to make us afraid? Might it be that we fear saying the wrong thing and either bringing us rejection or pushing them further away?

I heard an evangelist ask once, "What are you afraid of – sending them to Hell number 2?" Without Jesus, they are already headed to Hell. How can you make that any worse?

I can count on one hand the number of people who have cared enough for me to inquire as to whether or not I have eternal life and am heaven bound?

The bottom line is this. With God's help, you can follow Jesus and become a fisher of men! You can become a productive believer, introducing others to the best news they will ever hear.

To prepare to fish for men, begin by making a plan. Decide what Bible verses you will use and memorize them, or at least their addresses. Select some gospel tracts you will use to leave the message in print with those you are attempting to reach. Ask God to open doors for you into the fishing holes where He wants you to fish. Pray for those

you will be fishing for. Trust Him for the strength or courage to open your mouth and speak about the good news that others so desperately need to hear. Expect to catch fish!

I've heard it said that if we will catch them, God will clean them. I've seen it happen. The truth is we cannot clean them and they cannot, in their own strength, clean themselves. Let's remember what He has done for us. Let's share that story!

Let the redeemed of the LORD say so

Psalm 107:2a

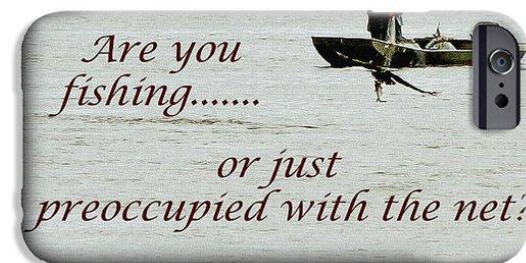
I have many pamphlets and tracts I've written to assist you in fishing for men. Just request copies of them and they are yours. Among them are:

- How To Share The Gospel
- Let's Share The Gospel
- How To Share Your Testimony
- Let Your Light Shine & Share The Gospel
- If The Trumpet Give An Uncertain Sound
- How To Be A Productive Christian
- His Strength Is Made Perfect in Our Weakness
- What Matters Most?
- Who Wants Purpose?
- Whatever Happened to the Word "Believe?"

**(NOTE: All quoted scripture is from the New King James Version of the Bible, published by Thomas Nelson Publishers)*

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FISHING FOR MEN



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***Read this pamphlet for pointers
on fishing from a guy who has
traveled around the world
fishing for both fish and men.***