

Lesson #2 – Why Fish

Opening prayer: Holy Spirit, empower us to live in the light of the gospel, declaring its truth with our words, and embodying this truth through our actions; so we may SHOW FORTH YOUR SALVATION from day to day. May we be SAMPLES OF YOUR TRANSFORMING POWER in all that we say and do. Amen

Welcome -Ask about any encounters with their “someone” from last week. Discussion

Scripture reading: Colossians 4:2-6 provides us excellent scriptural prayer guidelines to begin each day ready to be a witness for Christ.

*“Devote yourselves to PRAYER, being WATCHFUL, and THANKFUL. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may **PROCLAIM** it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always **FULL OF GRACE**, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”*

The Word of the Lord, Thanks be to God

Review : Last week we saw that Jesus had one clear goal in mind for His followers. It wasn't to make them more holy or more disciplined, or more loving. He promised to make them fishers of men. And as we saw, he has the same agenda for us today when we decide to follow Him.

Our culture and the current worldview are such that we are uncomfortable in sharing the Good News. The problem for most of us is that telling people about Jesus doesn't exactly come naturally. In fact, it can be awkward, unappreciated, and uncomfortable. We are intimidated by the anticipation of negative reactions, our inability to have “all” the answers on the spot. BUT, according to God's word, it is not optional. God's design is to use people that He has reached to reach other people. Will we always be successful? No. God's word tells us that the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing. We don't save anyone-that's the sole responsibility of the Holy Spirit.

Ask if the participants have any more reasons?

Read Matt. 28: 18-20 “Then Jesus came to them and said, all authority in heaven and `earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

This Great Commission tells us to “make disciples”. It's not enough to hear the message, we have to respond to it, obey, “go”, complete the mission assigned to us. As a believer you are part of the body of Christ and are called to bring His light to the world. We have a mission field-our family, friends, coworkers and perhaps a group of people that God placed on your heart.

God doesn't send us out to do His work on our own. He vows never to leave us—any task he assigns will be done through us by the Holy Spirit. When you think about it, it is an honor to be included in the Lord's redemptive plan for the world. He has asked each of us to be His partners in sharing His good news with others.

Let's look at how Peter and John shared Jesus in Acts Chapter 4 as we watch this next video.

Ask for reactions to Andy's message.

Discussion questions:

-does being a fisher of men mean convincing someone of your beliefs? Why or why not?

-Have you ever been asked a tough question about your faith? How did you respond?

Pray about everything! Prayer is key throughout this effort to become Fishers. Continually seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in every phase of learning, practice, and our steps of obedience.

Homework exercise: write a two minute testimony that describes your life before and after Christ.

Closing prayer: Lord God, we ask that you allow us, in Your name, to become fishers of men. Your love never fails, we are never alone, and You make all things work through Your never-ending love for us. May we understand that God will enable us to do the job He has assigned to us. He promises to make us fishermen because He has called us to open the door so others can see the joy and hope that is the most important part of our living. Amen

Halverson Benediction:

"You go nowhere by accident. Wherever you go, God is sending you. Wherever you are, God has put you there, He has a purpose in you being there. Christ who indwells you, has something He wants you to do through you, wherever you are."

(distribute Gospel summaries and the 4 Spiritual Laws)