

## Lesson #5 – MUDDY WATER

### OPENING PRAYER

Lord, thank you for giving us all the time and good health we need to gather here. Thank you for giving us a chance to open our hearts and minds to your word. These past few weeks, we have been thinking about and discussing the good news that Jesus died for our sins, giving us freedom and a relationship with You, Lord. We know that Your message has the power to change our friends and family members' lives on earth and for all eternity. Salvation is the greatest gift anyone can receive, and so we continue to pray for boldness and are thankful that we don't have to share the good news about Jesus in our own power. The Holy Spirit will give us boldness and the words to say if we ask Him. So, dear God, help us to be bold in sharing your gospel. And we ask that your Holy Spirit guide us here as we further our study. In your most precious Name we pray...amen.

Welcome-anything to share from last week or previous weeks to discuss?

### REVIEW

Last week, we saw that the fishing process was never intended to be a solo expedition. Instead, telling others about Jesus is also about exposing them to the functioning body of Christ rather than it is convincing them of a belief system. And one of the best ways to encourage that exposure is to help create environments where unbelievers can experience a community of believers.

### Introduction to video

A missionary was upset because the people to whom he ministered didn't understand the deep things of God despite all his efforts to teach them. His friend suggested, "Before you teach them the XYZs of the Bible, why don't you start out by teaching them the ABCs?" Oftentimes Christians make Christianity too complicated.

What is it that you have to know and what do you have to do to become a Christian? Let's watch the video to see how Andy explains it.

**Review: God loved, God gave His son, We believe then we have ask for comments**

### Discussion questions

: How do you think the average person would describe the requirements for getting into heaven?

: How would you describe those requirements in light of this session?

: Name two people in your sphere of influence who don't know that God loves them and forgives them. If you had to guess, what are some of the complications that have prevented them from understanding God's simple message. (Leader's note: There may be many answers. Remember we can be a stumbling block. The soul winner in a sense is a living advertisement of what Jesus Christ can do in a person's life. The unsaved may never read the Gospel According to John, but they will carefully examine the gospel

according to you. It's been said, "What you do speaks louder than what you say." Let's be a good testimony for the Lord.)

### **Homework**

- Memorize John 3:16-17
- Ask Jesus to give you and our church boldness in sharing His good news with everyone we know.
- Ask God to reveal any way you have been avoiding sharing the Gospel. Then, ask for forgiveness and boldness.
- continue in **prayer**

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Dear God, You love the world. The problem is that the world does not love You. But you solved the problem of our sins in giving Your Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins. Your word tells us in John 3:16 "Whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life." You have it all, right there in one verse! And so, dear Lord, when opportunities arise to share the good news, may we not be afraid to speak boldly. Let our witness not be in word only, but also in our living by the power of your Holy Spirit; for it is you Lord that we glorify for the salvation of souls. We pray all these things and thank you Lord for your mercy and grace -- and for making our witnessing process so simple! 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."

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