

Summer at the Sea – Let’s Go Fishing – July 26, 2023

Jesus settles in Capernaum, by Sea of Galilee. – **Matt 4:12-22**

Matthew 4 - 18 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 19 “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” 20 At once they left their nets and followed him. 21 Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, 22 and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. **& Mark 1:16-20**

Luke 5 – a little diff version: Jesus is teaching at the water’s edge. He got into Peter’s boat, put out a little from shore; Jesus sat down & taught the people. After, he said to Simon: go out into deep water & let down the nets for a catch.

5 Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.” 6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. 7 So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. 8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” 9 For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, 10 and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.” 11 So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Jesus said – I offer you a **new way of living** - leave your boats & follow me.

He spoke a **language** they could understand. Religion makes it **complicated**.

“salvation” ... righteousness ... justified ...

Jesus made it **simple**: Follow Jesus; live a new way of life . . . and when you **experience** it, you’ll want to **share** it with others.

Matt. 4:14-15 - “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp & then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house.”

Have you experienced Jesus? Found that life is better? Hope for heaven?

- Want those we love in Heaven w/us. Know we’ll see them again.
 - o To have that assurance, we need to go fishing.

Matt. 13:47-50 - Jesus said: “the Kingdom of Heaven is like a fishing net that was thrown into the water and caught fish of every kind. When the net was full, they dragged it up onto the shore, sat down, and sorted the good fish into crates, but threw the bad ones away. That is the way it will be at the end of the world. The angels will come and separate the wicked people from the righteous, throwing the wicked into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping & gnashing of teeth.”

In the “Parable of the Wedding Banquet” the King said to His servants: “go out to the street corners and invite everyone you see.”

Have you been inviting? Have you gone fishing?

Fishing involves three things: 3 B’s

1 - Being in the right place

- You don’t catch fish on dry land, in trees. Jesus ate w/thieves, the sick.
- We have to be present where the fish are. Sometimes, its **Deep Water**.
 - o Deep Water scary; over your head...(maybe) out of comfort zone?

2 - Bait

- Different baits for different fish. What you say depends on audience.
- Jesus told **parables**: Seed. Workers/vineyard. Lost coin, sheep, son.
 - Use the circumstances. A **Sand-dollar**; Jesus broken for us.
 - Or a **Star-fish**. There will be a Regeneration.
- o Your story? Gospel message? Let’s make it simple: **John 3:16**
 - John 3:16 . . . For God so loved the world . . . he loves you.
 - John 3:16 . . . that He gave his one & only Son. . . Jesus, gift.
 - John 3:16 . . . so that whoever believes in Him . . . you, trust.
 - John 3:16 . . . will have everlasting life . . . heaven, forever.
 - 4 things: God loved, God gave, we believe, we receive!

3 – Bide your time, then set the hook & retrieve.

- Bide means: *to stay put and wait*.
 - o You may fish a lot before you set the hook. Lots of nibbles.
- Lots of bait going out, too. **Scent** the water!
- Nibble here/ there . . . they’re coming back. Retrieve, **not catch & release**
 - o Retrieving takes time... patience, hold on . . .
 - It makes all the difference to get involved w/other believers.

Don’t get so comfortable in your boat w/believers that you stop fishing.

There’s still fishing to do. The good news? ... we catch ‘em, God cleans ‘em
Song/week - “I Catch ‘Em, God Cleans ‘Em” – by GVB