

Fish Like Jesus



When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." ... When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ... When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" ... Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." (Luke 5:1-11)

- In 1986 a first century boat from the Sea of Galilee was found in the mud just north of Magdala, Galilee. Peter caught fish, and Jesus caught Peter in just such a boat.

- Jesus teaches us how to fish for the Kingdom. And for somebody, _____ that we fish like Jesus. Here's how.

1. Jesus goes where the fish are.

- In the Gospels the Sea is a symbol for disciple-making. Note that Jesus does almost all of His ministry by this Sea. Jesus _____.

Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, along the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles--the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. (Matthew 4:15-16)

- Hanging with the lost is a simple matter of love. Either you love people enough to save them, or you don't. Jesus loves fish. _____.

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. (Matthew 9:36)

- There are at least four "calling" episodes of Peter in the Gospels (Matt. 4:18-20, Mark 3:13-16, Luke 5:1-11, and John 1:35-42). Jesus loves Peter enough to call him repeatedly.

Remember this: _____.

2. Jesus offers the only thing that matters:

_____.

- Jesus calls Peter to trust Him, regardless of how much Peter thinks he knows.

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." (Luke 5:5)

- This is because Jesus' way is far better than our way. This is why Peter repented down on his knees. Repentance is _____.

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" (Luke 5:8)

- We need to call people repent of doing life their way and to trust in a life lived Christ's way. This is true in every area!
- Priorities and loyalties (what we love, who's in charge, how we spend time) - Relationships (husband, wife, friends, etc.)
- Work and money (ethics, honesty, modesty, generosity)
- Sexuality (purity, marital commitment, faithfulness)
- Time (service, ministry, recreation, entertainment)
- Community (church, one another, the poor and hurting).

If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self? (Luke 9:23-25)

- When we trust in Jesus, He provides the power. Don't underestimate the power of Jesus _____.

3. Jesus then trains fish

- The Christian movement doesn't stop at mere programs, doctrines, or rituals. It is a living faith that is intended to be spread.

If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self? (Luke 9:23-25)

- So, why aren't most people bringing others to Christ?
- We might doubt _____.
- We might misunderstand the command and mission of Jesus.
- We might be too absorbed in our own lives to love the lost.
- We might not have been _____.

What Now?

Write down the names of three people who appear to be separated from Christ. Commit to praying for them every day. Ask God to create an opportunity to talk spirituality with them in the next three months.

- Remember this: fishing is _____ for someone you know.