

# Fishers Of Men

And he saith unto them,  
Follow me, and I will make  
you fishers of men. And  
they straightway left their  
nets, and followed him.  
(Matthew 4:19-20)

Exodus Baptist Church  
Men's Fellowship Meeting

# **Fishers Of Men**

## *Matthew 4:19-20*

Exodus Baptist Church

Men's Monthly Fellowship – July 2013

[www.exodusbaptistchurch.org](http://www.exodusbaptistchurch.org)

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*“It is easy to determine when something is aflame. It ignites other material. Any fire that does not spread will eventually go out. A church without evangelism is a contradiction in terms, just as a fire that does not burn is a contradiction.”*

## FOLLOW ME...

We see here in the scriptures the Lord’s call to his disciples, he tells them, “Follow Me”. It is impossible for us to be disciples of Jesus without following him. As the living Word, he has given us many examples of his expectation, his commandments, and his commission for the church.

He has called us to follow him. In order to do this means looking to his example, and placing our focus where he placed his focus. While he walked among men in the flesh, Jesus sought out the lost, the sick, the helpless. He helped them. Our goal as his followers should be to see the lost as he sees them, “Sheep having no shepherd” (Matthew 9:36).

We are not called simply to walk as he walked, but to love as he loved; to have compassion on the lost, and to love them enough to reach them. We should seek out, as he did, opportunities to help those who need help, and to present the Gospel to all with a smile and with the love of Christ as our motivation.

Following Jesus also means forgetting our ways, and following his ways. Forget canned speeches, forget the formula. Follow His example, follow the Word.

## AND I WILL MAKE YOU...

Jesus says that if we will follow him, he will mold us and shape us into what he wants us to be. He will direct us and help us to grow. He will give us the desire, the knowledge, and the boldness to reach out to the lost in love.

As followers of Christ, we are expected to bear fruit, as it is the natural result of any branch that is attached to the vine, dressed and cared for by the husbandman. (John 15:1-6)

Without Him, we can do nothing, but through Him, we can do all things (Philippians 4:13). Therefore, it is He who makes us. We are new creatures if we are in Christ, ambassadors, spreading the Gospel of Jesus to all, beseeching them, "Be ye reconciled unto God". We are made the righteousness of God in Him, that we can represent Him as light in a dark world. (2 Corinthians 5:17-21)

He gives us power through the Holy Ghost to be witnesses (Acts 1:8). Peter denied the Lord three times for fear. But on the day of Pentecost, he stood and boldly preached the Gospel with power and demonstration of the Holy Ghost, and three thousand souls were saved that very day (Acts 2:1-41).

We are promised that same boldness, that same power to be witnesses for Jesus, if we will but follow him and make ourselves available for his service.

## FISHERS OF MEN

There is no mistake, no doubt, that the commission of the church as a whole, and as individuals, is to reach the lost with the message of Christ. Scripture is too plain. The body of Christ works together to accomplish one purpose: Go, Teach, Baptize, Train. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Everything we do should reveal Jesus to those around us. We are the light of the world, and light reveals truth. As ambassadors for Christ, we carry His message, not our own.

Someone once said that the church has stopped fishing for men and has instead become keepers of the aquarium. In order to be fishers of men, we must go where the fish are, but unfortunately many "*Christians*" spend more time looking down their noses at the lost than trying to reach them with the Gospel. If we want to have great results, we must cast our net, and not a hook.

Some have adopted the attitude that it is their job to drive men to Christ. But Jesus said if he be lifted up He would draw all men unto Him. We have but to lift Him up. He will do the rest. When we lift up Jesus by sharing the Gospel, the Holy Spirit draws men to Him, where He can do a work in their hearts that we can never do.

The *Times-Reporter* of New Philadelphia, Ohio, reported in September, 1985 a celebration of a New Orleans municipal pool. The party around the pool was held to celebrate the first summer in memory without a drowning at the New Orleans city pool. In honor of the occasion, 200 people gathered, including 100 certified lifeguards. As the party was breaking up and the four lifeguards on duty began to clear the pool, they found a fully dressed body in the deep end. They tried to revive Jerome Moody, 31, but it was too late. He had drowned surrounded by lifeguards celebrating their successful season.

AND THE LORD SAID UNTO  
THE SERVANT, GO OUT INTO  
THE HIGHWAYS AND HEDGES,  
AND COMPEL THEM TO COME  
IN, THAT MY HOUSE MAY BE  
FILLED. (LUKE 14:23)

## THE COMMISSION TO GO FISHIN

*And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matthew 28:18-20)*

The Great Commission of the Lord Jesus. In it, He makes a statement that He has been given all power in heaven and in earth. He is setting up for his next statement by telling his disciples that He has the power, and that they need not fear failure. He is telling them that there is no need to worry about what could happen, and no need to fear what people might say or do.

He then tells them to “Go”. This is the commission to the church; to go and teach all people about Jesus. We are to preach the Gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15). We are to compel them to come (Luke 14:23). But, unless we go, we will never reach those who would otherwise never hear. It all starts with “Go”. Jesus empowers us to Go because He has all power.

Once we have gone, we are to teach people the Gospel. We are to tell them that Jesus came and died for their sins on the cross on Calvary, and that he was buried, and that he arose on the third day to purchase our salvation with His own blood.

Then, those who will repent of their sins and trust in Jesus for salvation should be encouraged to be baptized scripturally and to join a local Bible believing church, where they can fellowship and grow with other believers and be taught in the word of God.

This is the Commission To Go Fishin'. It is by His power that we can go, and by His power that we have success. He said that we would receive power when the Holy Ghost was given, and that power is to be a witness for Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit testifies of Christ (John 15:26), and gives us comfort, guidance, and leadership so that we can accomplish the purpose of God in our lives. That purpose is ALWAYS related to witnessing for Christ, leading others to Jesus. We are witnesses of God's grace in our own lives, and by His grace we can testify to others about the forgiveness of God through the Lord Jesus.

## THE WRONG WAY TO FISH

*Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him, Why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them. Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous. And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you. Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring it to the land; but they could not: for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them.*

*Wherefore they cried unto the LORD, and said, We beseech thee, O LORD, we beseech thee, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not upon us innocent blood: for thou, O LORD, hast done as it pleased thee. So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging. Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the LORD, and made vows. Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. (Jonah 1:10-17)*

Here we see a very good example of the wrong way to fish. Jonah was given a commission to go preach, and instead, he tried to run and hide. So, God took him fishing. The problem was that Jonah was the fish's food, and not the other way around. God prepared the great fish to swallow Jonah so that

Jonah could have some time to think about what God had called him to do.

Jonah spent three days and nights in the belly of the fish, miserable, helpless, and afraid. Jonah repented and prayed unto God. In his prayer, he recognized that salvation is of the Lord (Jonah 2:9), and God spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land (Jonah 2:10).

The lesson for us in the Lord's command to be fishers of men and the account of Jonah's disobedience and subsequent chastening? One way or another, we're going fishing.

## THANKS FOR ATTENDING

We hope you enjoy your time with us this evening. We look forward to hosting many more of these meetings. This being our first Men's Fellowship, we are sure we have a lot to learn, and we are trusting the Lord to help us continue this ministry and to bless it in a mighty way.

We hope you will take some time and meet and exchange contact information with the other men present here. In today's world, it is so important to have friends who are men of principles, men of character, men of God. Many strong and lasting friendships can be formed through networking with men of like faith and conviction, and we hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to both be a friend and make some friends.

We also ask you to pray for this ministry when you pray. We recognize the importance of prayer, and we believe that the effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much (James 5:16). Call us out to the Lord in your prayers, asking that he receive all glory, and that he bless our efforts to faithfully serve and honor Him.

Finally, we will receive an offering at each meeting. Anything received will be put toward continuing this ministry, and growing the outreach of those who attend. We have a burden for lost souls, and a desire to fulfill the Great Commission. Your help and support are humbly received and greatly appreciated.

