

LifeGroup Questions

Based On: Romans 10:10-15

October 14, 2018

Overview

The Call. Jesus said in Matthew 4:19, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."¹ The call from Jesus includes two parts: following and being a fisher of men. Jesus called us to follow Him, not just a set of rules and regulations. Christianity is not based on a bunch of do's and don'ts, but it is based on a relationship with Jesus. One day when we all stand before God we are not going to want a set of nicely polished doctrines, but we will need a relationship with Jesus.

The second part of the call is to be a fisher of men. Jesus used the analogy of being a fisherman when it comes to sharing the Gospel message. The call to share is part of the call to follow. It is "Follow Me, AND" not just "Follow Me." There are a lot of believers who want to follow but not share the gospel message. I recently heard there are around 6400 unreached people groups in the world. If everyone from these unreached groups stood arm to arm they would circle the earth 25 times. If believers truly believed they had the words of life they would passionately (desperately, urgently) do everything in their power to share the gospel with these people.

Romans 10:14-15 reads, "¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?" I heard it said once when it comes to sharing the gospel that you put your "YES" on the table and let God place it on the map. He might place it next door or around the world, but as the Apostle Paul reminds us they cannot hear unless someone speaks up. When there is a line 25 people deep circling the world that hasn't heard the gospel it is time all believes speak up.

Bible Study: Romans 10:10-15

Instead of questions this week read the following modern parable. When done discuss as a group your role in mission and sharing the gospel.

"Follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." Parable by Pastor John Drescher

Now it came to pass that a group existed who called themselves fishermen. And lo, there were many fish in the waters all around. In fact, the whole area was surrounded by streams and lakes filled with fish. And the fish were hungry.

Week after week, month after month, and year after year, these who called themselves fishermen met in meetings and talked about their call to fish, the abundance of fish, and how they might go about fishing. Year after year they carefully defined what fishing means,

¹ [New American Standard Bible: 1995 update](#). (1995). (Mt 4:19). La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

defended fishing as an occupation, and declared that fishing is always to be a primary task of fishermen.

Continually, they searched for new and better methods of fishing and for new and better definitions of fishing. They created witty slogans and displayed them on big beautiful banners.

These fishermen built large, beautiful buildings called "Fishing Headquarters." The plea was that everyone should be a fisherman and every fisherman should fish. One thing they didn't do, however: **They did not fish.**

In addition to meeting regularly, they organized a board to send out fishermen to other places where there were many fish. The board hired staffs and appointed committees and held many meetings to define fishing, to defend fishing, and to decide what new streams should be thought about. **But the staff and committee members did not fish.**

Large, elaborate, and expensive training centers were built whose original and primary purpose was to teach fishermen how to fish. Over the years courses were offered on the needs of fish, the nature of fish, where to find fish, the psychological reactions of fish, and how to approach and feed fish. Those who taught had doctorates in fishology, but the teachers did not fish. They only taught fishing. Year after year, after tedious training, many were graduated and were given fishing licenses. They were sent to do full-time fishing, some to distant waters, which were filled with fish. Many who felt the call to be fishermen responded. They were commissioned and sent to fish. **But like the fishermen back home, they never fished.**

They engaged in all kinds of other occupations....Some felt their job was to relate to the fish in a good way so the fish would know the difference between good and bad fishermen. Others felt that simply letting the fish know they were nice, land-loving neighbors and how loving and kind they were was enough.

Now it's true that many of the fishermen sacrificed and put up with all kinds of difficulties. Some lived near the water and bore the smell of dead fish every day. They received the ridicule of some who made fun of their fishermen's clubs and the fact that **they claimed to be fishermen yet never fished.**

Imagine how hurt some were when one day a person suggested that those who don't fish were really not fishermen, no matter how much they claimed to be. Yet it did sound correct. Is a person a fisherman if, year after year, he never fishes? **Is one really following if he isn't fishing?**