Called To Fish For Men

April 8, 2018
The Fish Quickly Became Christianity’s Chief Symbol.

The Greek Word For Fish (Ichthus) Was A Code For The Name Of Christ:  *Iesous Christos Theou Huios Soter* (Jesus Christ, God’s Son, Savior)
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• *John Chapter 20* = The Miraculous Account Of The Resurrection Of Jesus Christ
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• John 20:22 “He Breathed On Them And Said ‘Receive The Holy Spirit’”

• At That Moment They Were Born Of The Spirit
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(John 21:1-12 NIV) Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Tiberias. It happened this way: (2) Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. (3) "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. (4) Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. (5) He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. (6) He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.
(7) Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. (8) The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. (9) When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. (10) Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." (11) Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. (12) Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord.
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• *These Disciples Were The First To Be The Called Out, Chosen, Regenerated Followers Of Jesus Christ*

• *One Important Lesson: DO What Jesus Says*
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• The Message Of This Passage About **What The Church Should Be Doing:**

• **Jesus Has Given His Church To Have A Purpose:** **We Are To Become Fishers Of Men**

• **You Shall Catch Men** = “Zogreo” = **Taken Alive, Captured**
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153 Large Fish =
1. The Number Of Languages In The World?
2. The Races Or Tribes In The World?
3. The Number Of Different Kinds Of Fish?

•153 Fish = The Lost In Our World Today
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• With Our Methods We Can Work All Day And All Night And Come Up Empty-Handed

• When We Follow The Leading Of The Lord -- He Can Cause Us To Be *Effective* & *Productive*
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• Questions To Consider About Fishing For Men
• Question 1:
  “Am I Willing To Become A Fisher Of Men?”

• We Are Here To Become Fishers Of Men – Everything Else Falls In Line Behind This

• Becoming A Fisher of Men Is To Be A Life-Focus For All Followers Of Christ
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Question 2:

Can We Overcome The Frustrations Of Fishing?

Fishing Is An Art -- As Is -- Fishing For Men

1. Fishing Requires *Patience*
2. Fishing Requires *Skill*
3. Fishing Requires *Discernment*
4. Fishing Requires *Persistence*
5. Fishing Requires *Quietness*

*These Qualities Help Us Overcome Frustration In Fishing For Men As God’s Call To The Church*
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•Our Responsibility Is To Follow Him

•To Fish When – Where & How He Tells Us
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- Question 3: To Go Or Not To Go?
- Two Choices: To Do It Or Not To Do It
- Jesus Wants Us To Take Seriously The Call To Be Fishers Of Men

America Needs To Be Evangelized

- 83% Of Churches Are Plateaued Or Declining
- We Face A Great Struggle
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• *The Greatest Days Of The Church Are Ahead*

• *Before Jesus Calls Us Home – To The Shores Of Eternity --- To Come And Dine With Him --- There Is Going To Be The Greatest Catch Of Fish That We Have Ever Seen*
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• The Question: To Go Or Not To Go?

• *Let’s Go!*

• To Do It Or Not To Do It?

• *Let’s Do It!*
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• (John 21:6 NIV) “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.”

• = They Were Only A Few Feet Away From An Overflowing Supply And Catch

• = The Thing The Disciples Had To Do Was To Listen To Jesus And Do What He Said
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• (John 21:9 NIV) When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

• The Very Thing These Guys Had Been Looking For All Night Jesus Had Already Set Aside And Prepared For Them
  • Fresh Fish
  • Grilled Fish
  • Their Fish

• In Him We Find Everything We Have Been Looking For
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• (John 21:12 NIV) "Come and have breakfast."

• "Come and dine," = I’ve Got A Meal Prepared For You -- It Is Just What You Are Looking For