

*****Concentrate on Fishermen today.**

Intro:

*****Outdoorsmen have specific characteristics:**

1. They've become something different than what they started

*****2. Every man has something in them that makes them want to be more of an outdoorsman.**

Every man wants to connect with the outdoors in some way.

*****3. They had help becoming what they are**

*****I love fishing. You put that line in the water and you don't know what's on the other end. Your imagination is under there. ~Robert Altman**

*****Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after. ~Henry David Thoreau**

*****The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive but attainable, a perpetual series of occasions for hope. ~John Buchan**

*****Three-fourths of the Earth's surface is water, and one-fourth is land. It is quite clear that the good Lord intended us to spend triple the amount of time fishing as taking care of the lawn. ~Chuck Clark**

*****My biggest worry is that my wife (when I'm dead) will sell my fishing gear for what I said I paid for it. ~Koos Brandt**

*****Nothing makes a fish bigger than almost being caught. ~Author Unknown**

*****Tell the story of the fish that got away.**

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***Matthew 4:18-22

18 Now as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.

19 And He said* to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

20 Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

21 Going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them.

22 Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

Why fishermen?

Jesus was a carpenter, so you'd think he'd go after carpenters???

It is thought that as many as 7 of the original 12 followers of Jesus were fishermen.

But look at what Jesus tells them.

I will make you fishers of men

***Outdoorsmen have specific characteristics:

1. They've become something different than what they started

They didn't follow Him because of this, but this was eventually what would happen to them. They would become something that they are not right now.

We didn't follow Jesus because he was going to turn us into fishers of men. We followed for purely selfish reasons. My life was screwed up,

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make me a better husband, make me a better father, get me out of financial ruin.

But instead he says, follow me and I will change you into something you're not.

Folks, Followers Fish! When you become a complete follower of Jesus, you will fish! Not because you will suddenly decide that it's the right thing, but because God will transform your heart.

*****2. Every man has something in them that makes them want to be more of an outdoorsman.**

Every man wants to connect with the outdoors in some way.

Understand that Jesus didn't say, as you keep fishing for men you'll learn to like it.

*****3. They had help becoming what they are**

Just like an outdoorsman becomes one as he learns, as he is told what to do, someone becomes a follower of Jesus because someone tells them.

Christianity is not an intuitive faith, in other words you can't get to an understanding of Christianity by sitting under a tree and just coming to a conclusion. That's because our faith is not based on morality, is not based on a code of conduct, it is based on a historical event and the only way you come to an understanding of a historical event is if somebody tells you.

All of you in this room who are Christians came to a relationship with Jesus because someone told you about it.

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Now, I want you to understand, I think Jesus picked fishermen, because, ultimately fishing is easy.

When I was 8 years old, I decided on a trip to a place called James Springs in New Mexico, that I was going to fish.

Fishing is simple, and fishing for men is simple, and I'm going to show you today how simple it is.

*****John 3:16**

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

*****Fishing is simple**

1. **God Loves**
2. **God Gave**
3. **We Believe**
4. **We Receive**