

HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL FISHERS OF MEN

LUKE 5:1-11

I. Successful fishers of men understand the Lord's command (vv. 3-4).

A. To be a fisher of men you must know who the Authority is (v. 3).

B. To be a fisher of men you must be where the fish are (v. 4b).

◇ How do we listen well, no less with compassion to identify the questions people are really asking?

a. Ask people to tell you their story.

b. Listen carefully to people's stories but listen with the gospel story in mind. Ask yourself:

- In what ways are they looking for answers that the gospel provides?
- How does the gospel meet them where they are in life?
- Who is the hero of their story?
- How is Jesus better than what they are pursuing or trusting in?

c. Speak gospel truth into their story in a way they can understand and will hear. Attempt to determine:

- where they are finding their identity
- what problem they are facing
- what "functional savior" they are trusting
- what hope they are holding onto in their lives

C. To be a fisher of men you must use your nets (v. 4c).

◇ Are you using the "nets" God has provided for you?

- Your lifestyle (1 Pet. 3:15)
- Your daily routine (Matt. 28:19-20)
- Your struggles and challenges (2 Cor. 1:3-4)

II. Successful fishers of men follow the Lord's directions without debate (v. 5).

A. Successful fishers of men have confidence in the Lord's sovereignty.

B. Successful fishers of men see obedience as more important than preference.

◇ A few facts to remember when you are walking by faith:

a. Jesus will never ask you to do anything that He will not be with you while you are doing it (Heb. 13:5-6).

b. Jesus will not leave you to wonder about what you're supposed to be doing (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

c. Jesus can take what seems like an impossible situation and make a miracle out of it (Rom. 8:28).

C. Successful fishers of men understand that Jesus is the Master of the harvest.

D. Successful fishers of men understand what they are without Christ (v. 8; Eph. 2:1-3).

E. Successful fisher of men understand what they can become with Christ (vv. 9-11).