

New Caney Church of Christ

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Assembly Times

Sundays
Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Wednesdays
Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

Retaining The Standard Of Sound Doctrine

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Know Your Bible: Answers

- 1. The Nile (Exodus 7:7-15)
2. The Jordan (Joshua 1:1-2)
3. Elijah (1 Lings 17:1-4)
4. Paul (2 Corinthians 11:26)
5. Lydia (Acts 16:13-14)

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Ronnie Lightfoot
Announcements: Billy Scherry
Encouragement Talk: Tyler Blazek
Opening Prayer: Arturo Orozco
Scripture Reading: Truet Blazek
Luke 1:57-66
Song Leader: Gary Tuttle
Table Talk: John Franks
Contribution: Eddie Bowen
Helper: Theo Edge
Fruit of Vine: Billy Lovell
Helper: Verlin Wilson
Closing Prayer: Joel Jordan

Sunday Afternoons

Sept 15 Nothing
Sept 22 Nothing
Sept 29 3PM Devotionals
Oct 6 Nothing

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: Truet Blazek
Speaker: John Van Baale



Standing Firm

Take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm Ephesians 6:13

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Fishers Of Men

Three times Scripture describes evangelism in pictures we can easily grasp.

- 1. From now on you will be catching men (Luke 5:10). The Greek for catching meaning to take, catch, capture. I envision the hunter setting traps and catching game.
2. Beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest (Matt. 9:38). This is the concept of the farmer.
3. Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men (Matt. 4:19; Mark 1:17). Obviously a reference to fishing.

From these three concepts it is easy for us to see that the Lord expects our participation in evangelism. Allow me to make a few points based on the concept of fishing for men. Jesus says if we follow Him we will become fishers of men.

Plan To Fish

People seldom decide to go fishing all of a sudden. Usually it is some fishing trip or weekend that has been planned and scheduled for some time. If we're going to become fishers of men we also need to make plans for fishing. Sure, there will be occasions of spontaneous teaching, but generally we need to make plans to teach and then follow the plan. This is what we see Paul doing in Athens when he was reasoning in the synagogue with the Jews and God-fearing Gentiles, and in the market place every day with those who happened to be present (Acts 17:17). He was fishing for someone who would listen to the truth. This was his daily plan. We also need to plan to fish!

Baiting The Hook

The purpose of bait is to lure, tease and draw interest. In a world that is so captivated with sensual pleasures we will at times need to get people's attention before they will hear the gospel. Paul did this by saying, I observe that you are very religious in all respects (Acts 1:22) and goes on to talk about the unknown God.

What bait we use is as complicated for the Christian as it is for the true fisherman. We need to be attentive to the needs of the listener and understand that the same bait doesn't work in every situation or 'every type of fish'.

We might capture someone's attention with a statement or a question. More frequently I suspect it is in the form of an answer or statement we make that peaks their interest, causing them to investigate. Sometimes literature or recordings might be used, or even an invitation to an assembly. Many techniques are necessary and if we wish to be successful fishers of men we need to become familiar with all the different 'baits'.

Learn To Cast

Having made a decision to fish and familiarized ourselves with a logical approach, we must then cast the bait. I fear this is where many would-be fishers of men give up. Until the logic is presented, the lost soul has no reason to understand the truth. *"How shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard"* (Rom. 10:14)? Without casting, you can't be said to have been fishing!

As any good fisherman knows, the time to catch fish is around dawn and dusk for that is when they are biting. The fisher of men must also know when to cast. There are doors of opportunity that present themselves, and others have to be created. Paul recognized the opportunity when he was asked, *"May we know what this new teaching is which you are proclaiming"* (Acts 17:19). He then proceeds to the Areopagus to teach the truth. Knowing when is a poor time needs to also be recognized. Simple consideration of the other person's situation can help us identify a 'good time'. It is difficult for any of us to admit religious error and sense there is never a good time, but we can be somewhat judicious about a better time or worse time to present a truth.

Watch The Cork

Simply put: men will watch a cork bob all day in the water waiting for a fish to bite, but some Christians have no patience with friends who don't seem to respond to the gospel. I'm not

Know Your Bible

Bodies of Water

1. What body of water was the first victim of the plagues in Egypt?
2. What river did the Israelites cross to enter into Canaan?
3. Who lived by Kerith Brook?
4. Which apostle said he was endangered by the sea and rivers?
5. What Jewish convert worshiped God with a group at the river?

Answers On Back

Sunday Sermon

Point your phone camera at the square below, then click on the link to hear the sermon. Recordings will change mid-week.



talking about casting pearls before swine, but being patient with those who are showing some interest. It does no good to present a truth and callously walk away without caring about a response! We need to pay close attention to those who are interested in the things of God.

Know When To Pull It In

If you pull the fishing rod when you've only got a nibble, the fish will probably get away. If you pull too hard after you get a bite, the fish may escape. Fishermen will tell you there is an art to setting the hook. Fishers of men will also tell you there is a right and wrong way to lead a person to Christ.

If an attempt is made to convert a person before they are sufficiently grounded in the truth, they may reject all truth and be lost. They were certainly interested and "nibbling" at the truth but were not yet ready for a commitment. The importance of fundamental truths and basic knowledge are essential to converting a person.

Likewise if a Christian presents a hard truth to accept or overwhelms a person with too many references, the prospect may give up. Harm can be done to any future attempts at teaching such a person if we are not careful. Depending on the person and their background, some truths are easier to accept than others. We must present "all truth", but do so with great care.

Conclusion

All of these point to experience. The fisher of men is one who needs to be full of experience and yet that is only accomplished through practice. Learning to fish from someone else is helpful. Jesus says, *"Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men"*. The methods, techniques and attitudes of Jesus are what we are to imitate.

Consider the meeting of the woman at the well in John 4. Jesus planned to speak to her as all of the apostles had gone into town for food (4:8), a rather unusual situation. He said to her *"give Me a drink"* (4:7) which served as 'bait' in sparking a conversation between a Samaritan and a Jew. Jesus deftly shifts the topic from water to water of life, demonstrating His ability to teach the truth, and He was careful to observe her reactions. The result was her belief He is the Christ.

All of us must strive to become fishers of men – it is what people do who follow Jesus!

By Charles Willis