

Modern day fishermen

Hebrews 12:1,2

...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

A gospel minded man in hell

“He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, 28 for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’

“Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’

“No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

“He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’” Luke 16:27-31

Jesus versus the leaders and intellectuals

Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words

When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at his teaching.

No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Matthew 22:15, 22, 33, 46

Profitable versus unprofitable things:

And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless.

Titus 3:8, 9

If anyone teaches otherwise and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, they are conceited and understand nothing. They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions and constant friction between people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

1 Timothy 6:3-5

As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer or to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God's work—which is by faith.

1 Timothy 1:3-4

True versus Counterfeit gospels

Philippians 1:15-18

- The motive isn't ultimately important as long as the true gospel is preached

Galatians 1:6-9

- It is NOT okay that false gospels are preached

2 Corinthians 11:3-4

- The church is susceptible to other gospels. We want to hear them!
- The simplicity of Christ is under attack

Go back to the beginning for perspective

- Words of Jesus
- Acts of the early church

Discipleship

Disciple:

- a follower or student of a teacher, leader, or philosopher.

Disciple and Christian are synonymous in Acts

- The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch. Acts 11:26

A deeper look

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life[a] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.

Mark 8:34-35

Not a suggestion but a binary

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus.

Luke 16:13-14

Why does the world hate Jesus?

The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that its works are evil.

- John 7:7

The Lord has hard sayings

- John 6:61, 65-67

He appointed twelve[a] that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach.

- Mark 3:14

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”

- Matthew 4:19

What are the things that people will take note of?

Love for each other (John 13:35)

Spirit of God

- Romans 8:14-16
- 1 Corinthians 14:23-25

Boldness

- Acts 4:13

Suffering for the sake of Christ with patience and thanksgiving

- 1 Peter 3:14-18
- Luke 21:12-15
- Acts 6:8-10

Our attitude affects our approach

Lordship of Christ

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9

Present the gospel of Jesus not just as Savior but Lord!

How can we preach Jesus as Savior and Lord if He is not our Lord?

Our attitude affects our approach

God has already given us everything that we need in Christ

- 2 Peter 1:3-4
- Philippians 1:9-11

Empty of self

- Philippians 3:4-7

Our attitude affects our approach

Understand that the message of the cross

- 1 Corinthians 1:17-24, 26-31, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

No fear or shame

- 2 Timothy 1:7-8
- Romans 1:16

Our attitude affects our approach

Joy of salvation

- Are we enjoying the Lord? Do we know the Lord in an intimate way? Is He really the most important thing to us?

Be in the presence of God

- Isaiah 6:1, 5-9

Launch out into the deep...

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”

Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”

Luke 5:4-5

Our attitude affects our approach

Be ready for suffering & persecution

- Philippians 3:10
- Philippians 1:29
- Acts 5:40-42
- Hebrews 10:32-34
- Act 4:29-31
- 1 Peter 4:12-14

Launch out into the deep...

Go to where the fish are.

- Where did Jesus go?
 - To seek and save those who were lost
 - To the places of worship and need
- Where did Peter and Paul and others go?
 - To the places of worship and prayer (temple, synagogues)
 - These individuals did speak to the rulers when they were invited/forced to and spoke to them boldly

Launch out into the deep...

“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.

Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?”

“No,” they answered.

He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.”

John 21:3-6

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:1-2