

Go Fish!

I. Announce:

- A. Slide#1 Justice Matters Conf:
- B. Slide#2,3 Patrick & Shari Bailey: Missionaries in Davao, Mindanao, P.I.
 1. You told me at lunch your **focus** right now is on a **farm**...explain.
 2. Speak about the **school needs**...what are they?
 3. Tell the **story** about **prayer** & a big **fish**.
 4. **Medical Clinics**: Pakistan & weekly in PI.

II. Slide#4 Intro:

- A. **Last week** we talked about Jesus' Baptism & Jesus' Temptation. *Two symbolic pictures:*
- B. Our Lord's 40 days in the wilderness remind us of Israel's 40 years in the wilderness.
 1. Israel **failed** when they were tested, **but** our Lord **succeeded** victoriously.
- C. The second picture is that of *the last Adam*. (1 Cor.15:45).
 1. The first Adam was tested in a beautiful Garden and **failed**; **but** Jesus was tempted in a dangerous wilderness and **won** the victory.
- D. Here we now mark the transition from **John's** ministry **to Jesus**?.
 1. Vs.14 says, *After John was put in prison, Jesus came...*
 2. So we close the door on the Baptizer & open the door to the Galilean ministry.

III. Slide#5 TREBLE HOOK! (14,15)

- A. What was his **Good News** & what **response** was he calling for?
- B. Jesus preached that people should **repent** and **believe** in the **gospel**. [our treble hook]
 1. **Repentance** alone is not enough to save us, even though God expects believers to turn from their sins.
 2. We must also put **positive faith** in Jesus Christ and **believe**. Believe in...?
 3. Believe in the **Gospel** - the good news of the Kingdom of the God.
- C. Slide#6 Repent!
 1. Why is repent such a **bad word** in our day & age? [I guess goes back to sandwich board days]
 - a) Repent isn't a *bad word*, it is a **needed action**!
 2. It means...a **change of mind** that changes the direction of your life.
 - a) You **can't** turn to Jesus **unless** you turn *from* your sin!
 - (1) Sin is repulsive, it is repugnant, it's serious, it is ugly, it's hideous!
 - b) **Reject the idea** that one can **hold onto their sin** with one hand, & **take Jesus** w/the other!

c) When the prodigal son made up his mind to *go to his fathers house*, he had to **leave** where he was...**to go to his father**.

3. **Repentance** *without faith* could become only **remorse**, and remorse can destroy people who carry a burden of guilt, but do nothing with it.

D. Slide#7 Believe!

E. This of course is not just the **believing** in your **head** **but** the **believing** in your **heart**!

1. Rom.10:9 **that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**

F. So **repentance** & faith/**belief** are the 2 sides of a coin.

1. Picture a **coin** then when sharing your faith:

a) **Heads** (usually a man's head) - the reminder for man to **repent**; **and**

b) **Tails** (usually a building/*i.e.* place/heaven) - **believe** on the One who left heaven to find you.

G. Slide#8 Gospel!

H. **Our Lord's message was the Gospel of the kingdom of God, or the Gospel of God** (some texts omit)

1. No doubt most of the Jews read "**political revolution**" into the phrase "kingdom of God," **but** that was not what Jesus had in mind at all.

a) His kingdom has to do with **His reign** in the lives of His people; it is a **spiritual realm** and **not** a *political organization*.

b) The only way to enter God's kingdom is by **believing** the Good News & being born again

c) **Kingdom of God** is present wherever God is ruling & reigning.

(1) So Jesus could say **the kingdom of God was here**, when He was here present in our world. He says it's **in you**, when you have God living inside you. It is **to come**, when He returns to rule & reign for 1000 years.

(a) So, the kingdom **has come**; it is **amongst us**; it is **yet to come**!

I. **The Gospel's many names:**

1. **Slide#9a** The Gospel is called **the Gospel of God** **because** it comes **from God** **and** brings us **to God**.

2. **Slide#9b** It is **the Gospel of the kingdom** **because** faith in the Savior brings you into **His kingdom**.

3. **Slide#9c** It is the **Gospel of Jesus Christ** **because** **He** is the heart of it; without His life, death, and resurrection, there would be no Good News.

4. **Slide#9d** Paul called it **the Gospel of the grace of God** (Acts 20:24) **because** there can be no salvation apart from **grace**.

a) There is only **one** Gospel, and it **centers** in what Jesus Christ did for us on the cross.

IV. Slide#10 **SETTING THE HOOK! (16-20)**

- A. Jesus did not invent the term *fishers of men*. In that day, it was a common description of **philosophers & other teachers** who “*captured men’s minds*” through **teaching & persuasion**. They would “*bait the hook*” with their teachings and “*catch*” disciples.
1. It is likely that as many as **7** of our Lord’s disciples were fishermen. (Jn.21:1,2)
 2. Surely the good qualities of successful fishermen would make for success in the difficult ministry of winning lost souls: courage, the ability to work together, patience, energy, stamina, faith, and tenacity.
 - a) Professional fishermen simply could not afford to be **quitters** or **complainers**!
- B. **Setting the hook** - swift jerk upwards (depending on the species) & then keeping line constantly taught. Although, in this case its **net** fishing.
- C. Slide#11 Here are 4 fishermen that got caught in Jesus’ net!
1. He calls **ordinary** men. (Look who He called in bible times? Look who He calls today!)
 2. Abraham Lincoln said, “that God must love the **common people**, He made so many of them!”
 3. “Give God your **ordinary life** (you, as you are now) **and** God will give you back an **extraordinary calling**.”
 - a) Notice the...*I will make you!* (17)
 - b) I heard YWAM director **Lauren Cunningham** say, “God doesn’t call the qualified, but **qualifies the called!**”
 4. Isn’t it great that their 1st titles aren’t “bishops, pastors, elders, nor deacons”,...**but fishers of men!**
- D. What a simple challenge...follow me.
1. They responded **immediately**.
 - a) **Oh that we might respond so punctually...&** put into practice what we hear right on the spot!
 2. They responded w/a “*don’t-look-back faith*” that Jesus was looking for!
 - a) **Peter/Andrew left their nets; James/John left their father; Matthew left his booth** (2:14)
 3. We cannot **follow** Jesus **until** we are willing to forsake **our own plans & wishes**.
 - a) This **doesn’t mean** He will always take you **out of your present job &** put you on staff at a church, **or** in a missions organization, **or** on the mission field!
 - (1) **Follow Him right-where-you’re-at!**
- E. (17) **I’ll make you fishers of men** - “If the Bible is a missionary book, the people of the Book are charged with being a missionary people.”

- F. How do you presently fish for men? women? children? The elderly? The ragamuffins? The misfits? The antagonists?
1. Slide#12 I have fished since a little boy – Here’s what I’ve learned.
 - a) I have learned I must **take time** to go fish. I must have a **hook**. I must **fresh bait**, or a **lure**. I must be **patient**. I must **never yell** at the fish for not jumping on my hook. **Sometimes** I’ve had to **go back** to the same pool a few times before I can catch a certain one. **Sometimes** I’ve tried & tried & have had to **walk away** to no avail. **Sometimes** I’ve **tried others techniques** & they haven’t worked for me personally. **Sometimes** I’ve **learned awesome techniques** that I am indebted to friends for showing me them.
- G. Thomas Boston (1699) the famous ‘Scottish Puritan’ once depicted it as, *The art of Manfishing!*
1. Prov.11:30 **He who wins souls is wise.**
 2. Dan.12:3 **Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.**
 3. **The greatest work in the world is soul winning.** There is nothing like it. **Do it right where you are at:** in your neighborhood, at your job site, in the office, at school!
- H. Slide#13 If you follow Jesus He says He **WILL** make you become fishers of men [few fishing tips]
1. Don’t keep telling only **old fishing stories**, when your boat was full of fresh fish.
 2. Enjoy fishing. We as fishermen remind each other when the fish **aren’t** biting, “**it’s not called catching, it’s called fishing!**” Cuz it’s about patience, waiting, trying again.
 3. You won’t catch any fish if your hook is not **in the water**. Get it in the water.
 4. Always work on being a **better** fisherman. Listen, watch others, read, & esp **FISH!**
 5. Fishing is telling your story. Learn to enjoy sharing your story. Learn to enjoy fishing, by fishing.
 6. Go where the fish are. Go to them..Lake, stream, salt water.
 7. Slide#14 Use the right bait. We are not trying to trick people. It’s finding what interests them. Where they are hungry. **We are not luring them to their death but to lead them to a new life in Jesus Christ.**
- I. So far...**Follow Him!...Go Fish!**

V. Slide#15 **FISHING IN THE AQUARIUM! (21-28)**

- A. Let’s step into Jesus home church for a minute.
1. **Capernaum** was His headquarters of His earthly ministry.
 2. In their service it was common for one of the rabbi’s, whether visiting or passing through to speak.
 3. This time Jesus was **asked**, & He was **different** (w/authority)
 - a) The scribes normally split hairs about trivial matters. *Or would just quote what one rabbi said about another rabbi, quoting another rabbi.*

4. What **freshness** this must have brought this synagogue that day.
- B. **Slide#16** (23) I found this picture of a church sign that reads, *Go To Church or the Devil will get you!*
1. Actually, in this case...*the devil was in church!*
- C. I have 2 questions: How long had this man been attending & How has he gone unnoticed?
1. Imagine a man in your home study group blurting out all vs.24 while you're teaching!
 2. "Bring Jesus into a dead service & things change!"
- D. Why in the world would a man possessed by demons even be interested in going to the house of God? - Why would the devil want to go to church?
1. Because the devil has always been **religious**. He's rather **orthodox** in some of his beliefs (even the demons believe & tremble). He's **monotheistic** (knows there's only 1 God). Problem is, he **doesn't worship God**.
 2. When he shows up at church it is not for **true worship** but rather for **false worship**. He comes to church to get folks to **talk about** other worshippers. To try to stir up **gossip**, or gloat on **glory stories** of the week. To preoccupy us with being **critical** towards worship leaders, or pastors, or spin on hurt feelings.
 3. The devil is opposed to **Christianity**, but not to **churchianity!**
 - a) He loves when we have a **form of godliness but deny its power**. (2Tim.3:5)
 - b) **Slide#17** 2 Tim.3:1-5 **Msg** - Don't be naive. There are difficult times ahead. As the end approaches, people are going to be self-absorbed, money-hungry, self-promoting, stuck-up, profane, contemptuous of parents, crude, coarse, dog-eat-dog, unbending, slanderers, impulsively wild, savage, cynical, treacherous, ruthless, bloated windbags, addicted to lust, and allergic to God. They'll make a show of religion, but behind the scenes they're animals. Stay clear of these people.
 - c) **Slide#18blank** Don't be so **naive** as to neglect the fact that **we war with the devil** even when we **come to church!**
- E. (26) **Some fish** are taken unexpectedly **by the net**. **And** so are **sinners** by the gospel.
1. **Paul** wasn't thinking about sweet thoughts of Jesus, when God met him on the way!
 2. **Zaccheus** was thinking little of salvation.
 3. **I personally** didn't see the net *fall about me* when I was caught!
 - a) I had the idea that since this was **God's ocean**; we must **all be in His care** already.
- F. (27) **Some fish** touch the net & draw back...**What is this? What new doctrine is this?**
- G. **Slide#19** In the card game **Go Fish** - when you ask if they have a certain card, & they don't have it, they say **Go Fish!** -

1. Then we get to draw at random, from the pile in the center, not knowing what we're going to grab. **We get to fish.**
2. **After our last song...let's GO FISH!**