

“Manfishing!”

1. Intro:

- 1.1. **Leonardo da Vinci** was once at work for a long period of time on a great masterpiece. He had labored long to create this work of art & it was near completion. Standing near him was a young student who spent much of his time w/his mouth wide open, amazed at the master w/the brush. Just before finishing the painting, da Vinci turned to the young student & gave him the brush & said, “Now, you finish it.” The student protested & backed away, but da Vinci said, “Will not what I have done inspire you to do your best?”
 - 1.1.1. In this mornings message we learn the necessity of human agency.
 - 1.1.2. A catch of fish that was miraculous. **Yet** neither the **fisherman**, nor **his boat**, nor his **fishing tackle** was ignored; all were used to take the fishes.
 - 1.1.3. So in the **saving of souls**. - God will even be pleased by the foolishness of our preaching!
- 1.2. His Galilean ministry continues:
 - 1.2.1. Remember **the Galilee** wasn't technically **Jewish**, but it contained a large Jewish population.
 - 1.2.2. **A lot of ministry happened up there though:** Sermon on the Mount; Bread of life discourse (Jn 6:59 in Capernaum synagogue); **25** out of 35 recorded miracles happened in the Galilee region.
 - 1.2.3. The Jews in Judea looked on Galileans w/some **contempt**. They had a **rude accent**, & were **not** considered sophisticated in matters of religion.

2. MANFISHING! (1-11)

- 2.1. (1) **Pressed** – Here, they pressed to hear him expound the Word of God. **Later**, Luke uses the same word when the crowds “press” Pilate for a crucifixion, as they are tired of The Word!
- 2.2. **Lake of Gennesaret** – Also, *Sea of Galilee* & *Sea of Tiberias* (imp. city)
 - 2.2.1. Luke w/his *pin point accuracy* never calls it a **sea**, the other gospel writers never call it a **lake**. (Plummer)
- 2.3. (3) Luke doesn't follow Mt. & Mrk here & specifically **singles out Simon**.
- 2.4. Here's the 1st use of a **wooden pulpit**...in the shape of a boat!

- 2.4.1. “Christ uses Peter’s boat as a **pulpit** whence to throw the net of the Gospel over His hearers” (Plummer).
- 2.5. **He got into one of the boats** – As the Psalmist said, (Ps.127)
Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it;
Unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.
Unless Jesus comes aboard your boat, you’re paddling up stream w/no oars.
- 2.6. (4) What a blessing just to know He is interested in us!
- 2.7. (5) **Master** – used only by Luke & always in addresses to Christ.
 2.7.1. “*One standing over another*”. Recognizes Christ’s authority.¹
 2.7.2. **One who has the right to give orders.** (LKGNT)
- 2.8. **Toiled all night** – Fishermen of the Galilee would fish at **night** when the schools of fish worked there way toward shore to feed on swarms of minnows in the shallower, warmer waters.²
- 2.9. Maybe this sums up your life so far “**we’ve toiled all night and caught nothing.**” – If so, hear Peters answer for this problem!
- 2.10. **Nevertheless at Your word** – best expression when we *don’t get* God!
 2.10.1. Ok to express your **true feelings**, just end with **doing as he commands.**
- 2.11. **Net?** – Partial obedience? [**See Nets** in vs.4!]
- 2.12. (8) **Jesus overwhelmed not only his nets but Peter himself!**
- 2.13. He fell on his knees & said, “*Thank you Jesus for these fish!*” **Noooo!**
 2.13.1. No, he begged, “stay away from me”, “I’m sinful!”
 2.13.1.1. “You’re Holy, I’m dirty!”
 2.13.2. He had seen him do **other** miracles, **greater** miracles, but sometimes the **simplest things** bring a person to Christ.
 2.13.3. His heart was touched by God! – He realizes just who Jesus is!
 2.13.4. You, like Peter, might look good next to the smelly fisherman next to you; **but** when you compare yourself to **Perfect Purity**, all sin floats to the surface. [And, He moves from master to Lord!]
 2.13.5. PTL – He **doesn’t answer** all our prayers & requests!
 2.13.6. PTL - He is **the friend of sinners!**

¹ A.T.Robertson; Luke 5:5

² Richard’s, The Teachers Commentary.

- 2.14. **What humbled Peter?** His failure in the pm or his success in the am?
 2.14.1. If **success** humbles you, then **failure** will build you up!
 2.14.2. If **success** puffs you up, then **failure** will destroy you!³
- 2.15. **(9) Astonished** – Lit. “for a wonder held him round”⁴ (It held Peter fast)
 2.15.1. Like being frozen in time.
- 2.16. **(10) Catch men** – This is the definite service they would render.
- 2.17. It means to catch/take alive, not to kill (like vs.9).
 2.17.1. This prophecy came true on Pentecost, where Peter threw his **Gospel Net** & brought in a great catch of **3000 men-fish!**
 2.17.2. They caught **live fish** & they would **die**. **Now**,
 They will catch **dead fish(sinners)** & the fish would now **truly live!**
- 2.18. **Men, like fish, were astray, were to be sought, & were to be caught!**
- 2.19. This word is only used 2 x’s in NT.
 2.19.1. The next time (2 Tim.2:26) “**having been taken captive by him**(the devil) **to do his will.**”
 2.19.2. Thus every soul is to be **taken alive** by someone.
 2.19.2.1. By **Christ** to eternal life; or by **Satan** to eternal death.
 2.19.2.2. By **Christ’s Net** into His boat; or by **Satan’s Web** into his sticky snare.
- 2.20. It is likely there were **7 fishermen** in the disciple band (Jn.21:1)
 2.20.1. Fishermen know how to **work together**; they **don’t give up easily**; they have **courage**; & they **labor diligently**.⁵
 2.20.2. They have the needed qualities: watchfulness, observation, patience, earnestness, perseverance, readiness, strength, & power.⁶
 2.20.3. These are **ideal qualities** for disciples of Jesus Christ.
 2.20.4. The fact that these men **were willing** to go out again after washing their nets is proof that they were **not dismayed** by a night of failure.
- 2.21. What a simple challenge... “**follow me**” (Mt.4:19).
- 2.22. **(11) Forsook all & followed Him** – Then & There.
 2.22.1. This was truly the Turning-point in these men lives!
- 2.23. **3 Stages** for these chosen men:
 2.23.1. **[1] Discipleship** - They become His **disciples** about 1 yr ago.
 2.23.2. **[2] Ministry** - now they leave their business for active service.

³ Warren Wiersbe; Outlines in the NT.

⁴ A.T.Robertson; Luke 5:9

⁵ Warren Wiersbe; Outlines in the NT.

⁶ Griffith Thomas pg.98

- 2.23.3. [3] **Apostleship** – ch.6.
- 2.24. This group of business men ought to cause **other** business men & women to pause & see if Jesus is calling them to do likewise!
- 2.24.1. Oh, & maybe not even **leave** there business, but maybe **redirect** it to Him? Maybe doing it in a foreign land for the sake of ministry purposes? Bringing Jesus into its profits?
- 2.25. When Jesus **forgives** & **transforms** a sinner, he says the same thing to each new creation, “*from now on, life will be different!*”
- 2.26. They responded w/a “*don’t-look-back faith*” that Jesus was looking for!
- 2.26.1. Peter/Andrew...“**left their nets**”; James/John...“**left their father**”^{Mk1:20}; & **next week** Matthew...“**will leave his booth**”(5:28).
- 2.27. We cannot follow Jesus until we are willing to **forsake** our own plans.
- 2.27.1. This doesn’t mean He will always take you out of your **present job** & put you on staff at a **church** or on the **mission field**!
- 2.27.2. But the question is “**Have you dared ask?**”...**yes you!** - Not the guy next to you...**YOU!**
- 2.27.3. “**God doesn’t call the qualified, but qualifies the called!**”⁷
- 2.27.3.1. But He requires Total Commitment!!!
- 2.27.3.2. A call to **obedience, confession, & commitment!**
- 2.27.4. 1st He called Peter to **cut the ties** from shore to go out into the deep. Next, to **cut the ties** of the past...for good!
- 2.28. **Q: What might He call you to leave on the beach?**
- 2.28.1. Peter finally got “*the catch of a life time*”, but not even that mattered, he left that also!
- 2.29. **Q: What did God do to get your attention to Him? - When you realized who Jesus was did you have an acute awareness of your sin? - What changes in your life can be traced back to your conversion?**
- 2.30. Here are 4 fishermen that got caught in Jesus’ net!
- 2.30.1. He calls **ordinary men**, walking an **ordinary life**.
- 2.30.2. “**Give God** your ordinary life(you, just as you are now) & God will **give you** back, an extraordinary calling.”⁸
- 2.30.2.1. Notice the “**I will make you!!!**”
- 2.30.3. I love that their 1st titles **aren’t** “*bishops, pastors, elders, or deacons*”,...but “**fishers of men**”!

⁷ YWAM director Lauren Cunningham

⁸ Kent Hughes; pg.19

- 2.30.4. **Without Jesus:** Night of toil; Nothing taken; Nets empty!
With Jesus: Full Nets; Full ship; Full hearts!⁹
- 2.31. **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."
- 2.31.1. **Q:** How do you presently fish for men? Women? Children? Elderly?
- 2.31.2. **I have fished all my life!** - 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.
- 2.31.3. As Thomas Boston (in 1699) the famous 'Scottish Puritan' once depicted it as "***The art of Manfishing***"!
- 2.31.4. **Our Nets?** The Word of God; Our personal story!
Our Bait? Loving words & deeds!
- 2.31.5. As Jesus has been painting Himself into people's lives & preparing them for salvation he says, "Now, you finish it." - "Will not what I have done inspire you to do your best?"
- 2.32. Jesus will repeat this miracle at an important time for an important person "Peter" & for his restoration (Jn.21).
- 2.32.1. And will tell him again to **Follow me**, even unto death!
- 2.32.2. **Follow me** *in Discipleship, in ministry, in death-to-self, in death itself if I require it!*
- 2.32.3. It seems Christ's Clarion Call is "***Excelsior!***" (latin, **Higher!**)
- 2.32.3.1. **Henry Longfellow's Poem: Excelsior!** (a young man in a deplorable state climbing a mountain in the dead of winter) [See Last page!](#)
- 2.33. **Prayer:**
 Lord we **obediently launch out** now **into the deep** of our community!
 Help us to **let down** our **gospel nets**, & **use** the **bait** of our lives!
 We **fall** at your Son **Jesus' knees**, & **own** our **own sinfulness!**
 We **forsake all**, & chose to **follow you** & you alone!
- 2.34. **Invitation:** The call to **obedience**, **confession**, & **commitment!**

⁹ Griffith Thomas pg.103

Excelsior

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

*The shades of night were falling
fast,
As through an Alpine village
passed
A youth, who bore, 'mid snow and
ice,
A banner with the strange device,
Excelsior!*

*His brow was sad; his eye
beneath,
Flashed like a falchion from its
sheath,
And like a silver clarion rung
The accents of that unknown
tongue,
Excelsior!*

*In happy homes he saw the light
Of household fires gleam warm
and bright;
Above, the spectral glaciers
shone,
And from his lips escaped a groan,
Excelsior!*

*"Try not the Pass!" the old man
said:
"Dark lowers the tempest
overhead,
The roaring torrent is deep and
wide!
And loud that clarion voice replied,
Excelsior!*

*"Oh stay," the maiden said, "and
rest
Thy weary head upon this breast!"
A tear stood in his bright blue eye,
But still he answered, with a sigh,
Excelsior!*

*"Beware the pine-tree's withered
branch!
Beware the awful avalanche!"
This was the peasant's last Good-
night,
A voice replied, far up the height,
Excelsior!*

*At break of day, as heavenward
The pious monks of Saint Bernard
Uttered the oft-repeated prayer,
A voice cried through the startled
air,
Excelsior!*

*A traveller, by the faithful hound,
Half-buried in the snow was found,
Still grasping in his hand of ice
That banner with the strange
device,
Excelsior!*

*There in the twilight cold and gray,
Lifeless, but beautiful, he lay,
And from the sky, serene and far,
A voice fell, like a falling star,
Excelsior!*