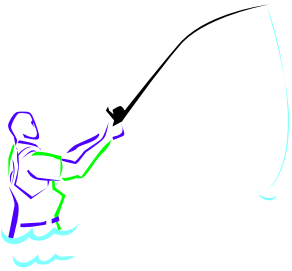




## FISHERS OF MEN

*And walking by the Sea of Galilee, He [Jesus] saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."*

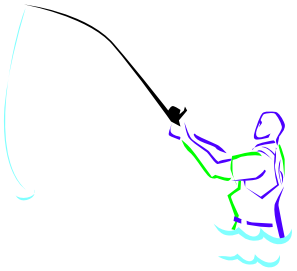
Matthew 4:18-19



### FISHERMEN AS APOSTLES

#### Qualities of a Fisherman

- Prepared** – have knowledge and equipment.
- Plan** – fish where fish may be found.
- Patient** – waiting as long as it takes.
- Persistent** – casting again and again.



### MAXIMS FOR FISHERS

#### OF FISH

Don't expect the fish to jump into the boat. . . . . "Go out into all the world" – Mar.16:15  
Fish where they're biting. . . . . Paul's extended stay in Ephesus: "an open door." – Col.3:4  
Can't make the fish take your bait. . . . . Can't make people listen, obey.  
Fish will take the bait when they are ready. . . . . Hearers will respond when they are convinced.  
Put up with irritants and hindrances. . . . . Withstand opposition in spreading the Word.  
Fish with plenty of natural food available don't bite. . . . . People full of worldly food, usually are not interested.  
If the fish aren't biting, drop your hook elsewhere. . . . . Shake off dust.–Mat.10:14; Go elsewhere.–Act.13:44-47

#### OF MEN

***For the Christian, being a fisher of men is a way of life, not a hobby.***

## The Beatitudes of Jesus Exemplified in the Epistle of James

### MATTHEW

### JAMES

5:3	"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.	2:5	Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?
5:4	"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.	4:9-10	Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.
5:5	"Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.	4:6	But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, <i>"God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."</i>
5:6	"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.	3:17	But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.
5:7	"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.	3:17	... full of mercy ...2:13 For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.
5:8	"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.	4:8	Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
5:9	"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.	3:18	And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.
5:10	"Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.	1:2,12	Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials...Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.



## **WORD STUDY**

enhance your  
Bible knowledge

Now these [Bereans] were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so. Act.17:11

They were eager to know. They searched the Scriptures daily. They examined what they heard.

## **Developing Good Study Habits**

### **FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE CONTEXT**

WHO is speaking?

God, inspired men, men, devil?

TO WHOM are the words spoken?

All people, God's people only, Jews only?

WHAT is the subject under discussion?

WHEN was this spoken (time)?

Before Jesus' crucifixion, after His ascension?

### **FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH RELATED PASSAGES**

Gather as much information on the subject as possible.

Observe the law of harmony.

Apparent contradictions are perceived when the reader doesn't properly comprehend.

Use plain passages to help clarify the difficult ones.

Do not interpret a passage in away which clearly contradicts another.

Eph.3:1-6 cannot mean God has predestined certain individuals--contradicts the great commission.

1Co.1:17 cannot mean baptism is unimportant--it contradicts Mar.16:16.

Joh.7:1, 12:7 cannot mean that it's wrong to judge--contradicts "righteous judgment"

Joh.7:24

### **BE CAREFUL WITH FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE**

When a literal meaning is absurd, it must be figurative.

Mat.8:22 "let the dead bury the dead"

Mat.26:28 "this is my blood"

### **REFRAIN FROM SPECULATION.** Deu.29:29

Personal conclusions are based on subjective reasoning. They may or may not be correct.

Don't "read into" passage what is not there. 2Co.1:12-13

To teach speculations as truth, and to demand that others agree, only causes conflict. 1Ti.6:3-5

"fruitless discussion" 1Ti.1:6

"worldly and empty chatter" 2Ti.2:16

"foolish controversies" Tit.3:9

"I think" must not be used as the basis for truth, fellowship, or judgment.

### **DEVELOP A GOOD STUDY ATTITUDE**

Keep it a joy. Don't let Bible study degenerate into a "duty."

*Make/take the time. Don't relegate it to "when I have time."*

*Take advantage of all classes offered. Attend with interest.*



# Ponder This

## Lame Excuses

And the man said, "The woman whom Thou gavest to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate. "Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." *Genesis 3:12-13*

**Man:**

*She gave it to me and I ate.*

**Woman:**

*Serpent deceived me and I ate.*

**God:**

*You are responsible for your own actions.*

## Lame Excuses Today

*He/she made me do it.*

*I couldn't help it.*

*I was told it was okay.*

*I wasn't the only one.*

*It sounded good to me.*

*Others have done worse things.*

*It's not a big deal.*

*That's just the way I am.*

*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

*2 Corinthians 5:10*



## Musings of a Preacher

*Once again, I had to learn anew a valuable lesson. Here's what happened.*

*My wife and I live in a unit that is part of a POA. I had volunteered to publish a directory for all of the units. It was quite an undertaking.*

*The new directories were handed out at the annual meeting. However, some of the residents were not in attendance. So I sent emails to those who were absent telling them they could pick up their copy at my unit. I felt good about what I had done in printing and distributing the directories.*

*Then, I was taken back when one resident called and asked me to bring a copy to them. At first, I thought, "Why couldn't they come and pick up their copy? Do they think they deserve special treatment?"*

*That evening I had planned to walk the dog and realized that I would be walking by their unit. So, I decided to put myself out a little and take it to them.*

*When I rang the doorbell I was greeted by a lady who lived there with her husband. She was most grateful that I had personally brought a directory to them. She went on to explain that her husband was under hospice care and she rarely leaves the house. She felt that staying with him was more important than leaving him to pick up a directory.*

*On my way home, once again I realized that I needed to have all the facts before forming an opinion. And, even if both the woman and her husband were physically able to come to my unit, it never hurts to do a little favor for another person. "It's more blessed to give than receive."*

*I am thankful that this couple helped me relearn a valuable lesson:*

### **Be Thoughtful and Kind!**

*Ephesians 4:32*

**F.Y.C.** is a monthly publication by Ron Adams.

Articles written by others are duly noted.

Bible references are from the NASB except where another translation is referenced.

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