



How 'Bout Learnin' How To Tell Em From An Excellent Fisherman?

"Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, 'Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us...'" ~Paul, Acts 17:22-27, nkjv

There are two types of people today, 1.) Those who have found the love of Jesus Christ in a born again experience and 2.) Those who are still looking for the love of Jesus (..even if they don't yet realize what they are really looking for).

There are two types of Christians in relation to this as well, 1.) Those who are worshiping and fishing right in Jesus, and 2.) Those who basically need a divine kick in their lazy blessed assurance or somethin' even more fitting ..if you know what I mean.

I'm out to see Solution meet up with Answer today.. to see spiritual Christians meet up with lonely open unbelievers today. When these things happen, America will see the Change it's been voting for and not before. Face it, we are beyond the point of no return and no amount of decent politicians are going to fix our Land. America (and your country too wherever that is..) needs witnessing believers praying and a genuine spiritual awakening again!

Hey gang, got a moment to look at effectual fishing-communication? This will be part of it! Got a lifetime to think and practice compassionate missional living? Let's take another look at the four sermons that Doctor Luke recorded in the book of Acts today. What happened with that early church out amongst their community of seen-it-all-skeptics is exactly what I am talking about!

Don't cha love how the Holy Spirit used Pete, Steve, and Paul to effectively connect with their hearers back then? You can do that too! You know, an effective fisher, by the wooing wise Spirit of truth, will go for touching a heart before they call for a response.

To me it is interesting when I read different books in the Bible to see how God, the ultimate missional Fisher ..coming from a totally different culture if you will, is the Initiator in entering and addressing the culture and minds of blind people. Yup, the people are the responders (which is totally opposite from what we typically see today on speak-it-to-see-it-happen, give-more-to-get-it, push-to-get-to-the-next-level, and praise-harder-to-snap-your-blessing Christian TV ..here in the Western world). Don't laugh; you know it's true!

We look in the Word and first read about all that God did for needy people, and then subsequent to all that He calls them to do such and such but not before (i.e., See Ephesians). What a great Example Fisher we serve.. **"We love Him because He first loved us"** (1 Jn. 4:19)!

Don't you love how Paul followed the Lord and His example well? In Acts 17, Paul showed how he understood Greek society, loved sinners and could relate to their most important needs. Why not check out how a wise fisherman reaches out and connects with those he seeks to net...

He opened with genuine affirmation minus all flattery and deception.

He wasn't going for their wallets first, but for pleasing Jesus and doing the will of God first.

He quickly and accurately built a bridge to his hearers using what was already familiar to them.

He started where they were at, then enlarged, filled-in and adroitly clarified to them ..their vision of God.

He, from the get-go, used warm inclusive language injecting an assumptive close if you will, having confidence that people would actually see it God's way.

He gave them encouragement, hope, and the Gospel—yup, was totally unashamed to proclaim the Name of Jesus as their definitive lasting Solution.

He offered his hearers clear soul-rescuing action steps (not that they respectively could do anything to regenerate themselves..) that would help every one of them where they need it most.

Why did he do that? Cuz everyone knows that inspiration minus proper application leads to major frustration! Only when the Apostle Paul had first constructed a relational bridge of love with his audience via clear illuminating biblical communication, did he issue a call to repent and believe in Jesus!

Question? Who is your audience today? Do you even have one or are you perpetually locked away in a dark dungeon playing video games like a sedentary n solitary teenage

geek with bad BO.. or like some middle aged reclusive hermit movie buff who refuses to venture out into the light of day?

Is audience made up of workers on a construction site, in an IT department, in a real-estate office or those on a church staff—yikes? Are they people you shoot hoops with on Saturday or fatherless-kids, friends of your children who drop at your home daily after school? Perhaps it is one hurting friend that calls pretty often needing prayer, but never asking for some or getting some. It your audience made up of many hungry students where you teach, or a few skeptical relatives at a holiday meal? Listen, God can give you a wise way to preach to reach, even when you can't always with words.

Pray today that God will use you to boldly example it and give them the right words at the right time. Intercede so that the Spirit will open a door and help you graciously segway on into explaining the Gospel Message.

Perhaps He'll give you a chance to answer some pertinent questions or to share your testimony. You can then make a beeline in your conversation for the cross, for the empty tomb and on to talk about your deep love for Jesus Christ!

Don't be afraid or feel intimidated by anyone when God is directing you to go for it! He will be right there with you encouraging you in the core of your being!

When you feel half-equipped and not yet post-graduate-level-Bible-proficient, rely heavily upon the Spirit and stay completely honest with your story. You can start today on your knees and in learning the passages, verses and apologetics-info regarding common objections that fishers face.

Mind what you say, or you may say whatever comes to mind.

I will guard my ways, lest I sin with my tongue. ~Psalm 39:1

Take my lips, and let them be filled with a Message that'll sing—use it to bring; take my voice and let me share only that which shows I really care—let my heart be laid bare!

Discipleship; ya gotta be one to make one! Are you in Christ and growing? Call out to Him now.

Some believers stubbornly refuse to be disciples, not trusting Jesus as their Lord. Many never start verbally witnessing because they don't know it all yet and then they simply miss out on seeing God go to work. Some have been hurt by hypocrisy real bad and are still trying to recover. Don't play fast and loose with your walk or with the truth, but also ..please don't be like those who never start. Open your mouth and let God fill it! Christian, pray something like...

Father I am willing to be used of you today! Fill me with the fearless Holy Spirit now—give me a non-religious unction to function with great confidence. I don't care for unbelievers in their horrible plight like You do, but I want to badly ..in a non-pushy kind of Way! Lord, You can put your agape love inside of me and help me genuinely have a burden for them. Please give me the right words for time is running out for them—many don't know they are in THEIR last days. Show me how to prepare today. Give me an opportunity to clearly share my own story of coming to faith in You. Do bring some open sinners across my path where I will have a bit of free time to share fitting Scriptures with em.. and enthusiastically brag on your Son, Jesus Christ! Oh yeah, and let me not forget to give each one an opportunity to pray and get right with you ..right there on the spot. I'm not out to impress or embarrass anyone, but I am trusting You for a harvest of souls.. one person at a time. Thank you for being the Soul-winner in me!

Read more on this topic at F4S!

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