

Sermon Summary – January 25, 2015, Pastor Alan Smith

“Fishing”

Jesus said in **Mark 1:17** ¹⁷ *Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!”* and this verse got me thinking: Was there a difference in fishing and fishing for people? There are some differences but I want to look at the similarities.

Let’s look at the equipment we need to fish. The basic equipment is a rod, a net, and bait. The rod gives us something to hold on to as we reel the fishing line in that holds the hook with the bait and the fish on it. When we fish for people, it’s the word of God that we hold on to. The word of God gives us the truth that we need to tell others. It tells us how we should live and shows us the love that God has for us. It’s the scripture that gives us our motivation and purpose. **2 Corinthians 4:5** **You see, we don’t go around preaching about ourselves. We preach that Jesus Christ is Lord, and we ourselves are your servants for Jesus’ sake.** Like Paul and the other apostles, we are not to preach about ourselves, but about Jesus. We are also called to be servants for the sake of Jesus.

The next piece of equipment is the net. Now, in the fishing world the net is used to surround the fish and draw it out of its current situation. When we fish for people, it is our love that acts like the net. Our love for them should surround them and help them out of their situations. We are called to love according to **1 John 3:11**. The love we are called to is not a superficial love, but a love that is sincere. **Romans 12:9-10** *“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.”* It’s that sincere love that motivates and even drives us to do for others. It is that same love that Jesus had for us that sent Him to the cross. That love will have us make those sacrificial choices so others may come to know Jesus.

The next item we need is bait. We have to use the right kind of bait for the type of fish we are going after. When we fish for people we need to pray that the Holy Spirit will go before us and touch the hearts of those we are talking to.

We have God’s word and we have love for the lost and we have prayed for the Holy Spirit to go before us. What is next? In **Matthew 28:19-20** Jesus commands us to go and make disciples of all nations. The one thing about fishing is you can’t stay in your house and fish. You need to go to the fish. We need to go where the people need to hear the good news. It’s more than telling them. We need to relate to them. Walk with them in their journey. Paul basically said in **1 Corinthians 9:19-23** that he would become all things to all men so he could spread the gospel. Let’s **GO FISHING!**

