



Fishermen Are Made, Not Born

Mark 1:16-20 (ESV)

Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." ¹⁸ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰ And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

John 21:1-3 (NIV)

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: ² Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. ³ "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

I. Drop the excuses.

"I don't have what it takes."

- If the Holy Spirit indwells you are more than qualified to share the Gospel! (Romans 8:11)
- You are uniquely suited to reach certain types of people!

"It's not my gift."

- Evangelism is not merely a calling for a select few, but the mission of us all. (Matthew 28:19)

"Talking to other people about Jesus makes me feel weird."

- The message of the Gospel is important enough for a little awkwardness. (Romans 1:16)
2. Remember, to follow is to fish. (Mark 1:16-17)
- Jesus agenda for His first followers is His agenda for you.
 - Fishing provides you an escape from the temporal and a taste of the eternal.
 - Refusing to fish is refusing to grow.
3. Start casting.
- A. Believe God can and will use you! (Hebrews 11:6)
- B. Ask God to use you.
- Boldness starts with a request.
- C. Watch how you live your story!
- Living the Gospel gives you greater opportunity to share the Gospel. (1 Peter 3:15; Ephesians 4:30)
 - Anything that grieves the Holy Spirit of God limits your effectiveness, and damages your hearing.
- D. Be willing to share your story!
- Fishing is ultimately being willing to do in the life of another what someone did for you. (Acts 4:18-20)