

## Are You One of God's Anglers?

"Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.

And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake", Luke 5:4-6.

Today the serious fishermen spend hours looking at expensive rods and associated items which the salesman will tell you "They are essential if you want good catches of fish!"

Friend, they are tools that human hands will hold, with a human mind hoping they will lure the big one his way!

Let us, for a few minutes consider Peter.

He was physically a strong man. He would have needed his strength to get his boat to shore when one of the storms broke on lake Gennesaret.

He would have needed his strength to haul one of the bigger catches into the boat.

But his greatest trial was still to come. He was on the shore repairing his nets, that none of his night's work could escape. It was a mundane and tedious job, but one that had to be done.

Jesus approached and asked to be taken out a little way from the shore that He could talk to the people.

It was, however, Peter who God was calling, and that God's Commands can bring the greatest rewards man could ever hope for, and Peter's empty nets were about to receive a complete refill.

Consider Peter's thoughts at this time. He had listened to the Lord teaching the people, and it had all made sense.

Peter's experience was that the best catches of fish were during the night. Not during the day, and what Jesus was saying was not making any sense.

Consider the following, and is it happening in your life?

1. Peter doubted, and did not expect it to work.
2. Peter was obedient to the Lord's Word, possibly thinking "I've got to dry these nets again'.
3. Peter was rewarded for his obedience to his Heavenly Father's Command through the Son who had remained in Peter's boat.

Peter was also extremely similar to many of the Peters, Franks, Mikes, Johns, or Andrews I know.

4. They say they are Christians, members of our Lord's house of servants.
5. Happy sitting in a pew for an hour every Sunday.
6. Happy to kneel for a prayer.
7. The sermons are not too bad when it is about fishing.
8. Then finally it is time to go home, get the boat out, and hope we catch something today.

As fishers of men, God does not supply us with rods, reels, bait, and a boat, but just ONE tool - His Word.

For using that ONE tool, God will reward His Fishermen with just a reward that will not fit into any cargo ship that is sailing on the seas today.

As I close with a true article of a man named Robert by Max Lucado, who was, according to many, ready for the rubbish tip.

"His hands are twisted and his feet are useless. He can't bathe himself. He can't feed himself. He can't brush his teeth, comb his hair, or put on his

underwear.

His shirts are held together by strips of Velcro, and his speech drags like a worn-out audio cassette.

His name is Robert, and he has cerebral palsy.

The disease keeps him from driving a car, riding a bike, and going for a walk.

But it didn't keep him from graduating from high school or attending Abilene Christian University, from which he graduated with a degree in Latin.

Having cerebral palsy didn't keep him from teaching at a St. Louis junior college or from venturing overseas on five mission trips.

And Robert's disease didn't prevent him from becoming a missionary in Portugal. He moved to Lisbon, alone, in 1972. There he rented a hotel room and began studying Portuguese. He found a restaurant owner who would feed him after the rush hour and a tutor who would instruct him in the language.

Then he stationed himself daily in a park, where he distributed brochures about Christ. Within six years he led seventy people to the Lord, one of whom became his wife, Rosa".

I have often wondered if Robert sang the following to the Lord,

"Fill my cup Lord, I lift it up Lord

Come and quench the thirsting of my soul

Bread of heaven fill me till I want no more

Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole."