

Let's Go Fishing!

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Imagine a company whose president decides to travel abroad. He is going to be away an extended period of time. So he says to his trusted employees, "Look, I'm going away. And while I'm away, I want you to pay close attention to the business. You manage things while I'm away. I will write you regularly. When I do, I'll tell you what you should do until I return." Everyone agrees.

The president leaves for a couple of years, but he writes often with instructions for how his business should be conducted. Finally he returns. As he approaches the front door of the company he immediately notices the flower beds are full of weeds, one of the windows across the front of the building is boarded up, and the receptionist at the front desk is sound asleep. When the president reviews the company's bottom line things are even worse.. The business has suffered huge losses.

He asks his employees, "What in the world is going on?"

"What do you mean?" they ask.

"Well, look at this place! Didn't you get any of my letters?"

"Letters? Oh, yeah sure, we got every one of them," one of the employees replies. "As a matter of fact, we have had letter study every Friday night since you left. We have even divided all the personnel into small groups and discussed many of the things you wrote. Some of those things were really interesting. You'll be pleased to know that a few of us have actually committed to memory some of your sentences and paragraphs. One or two memorized an entire letter or two! Great stuff in those letters!"

"Okay, okay you got my letters," says the exasperated president, "you studied them and meditated on them, discussed and even memorized them. But what did you do about them?"

Silence, then a slow response: "Do?" "Uh - we didn't do anything about them."

Jesus said, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." Followers of Christ have been fishing for people ever since. Or have we? Is a person a fisherman if year after year he or she never catches a fish?

Studying and talking about fishing is important, but fishing is the purpose. Our calling is to be about the business of casting the net, fishing for people, drawing others into this fellowship of Jesus Christ. We're not called to simply be students and supporters of Jesus, but participants in His vision for the world. We can read all about it and talk about it all we want to, but the truth of the matter is, we will never be a fisherman until we start fishing. We've become good at studying and talking about fishing, now let's go fishing!