

shifty, hot and cold; perhaps only pretenders, actors, etc.

- 3. Consider Psalm 1; I Cor. 15:58; 16:13; Eph. 4:14.

E. The Swordfish. Cf. World Book, XVI, p. 143.

- 1. Has a long sword like beak, “formed by the bones of the upper jaw:” is always armed: not easily defeated or captured: and is much respected
- 2. Some Christians have armed themselves and stay ready for battle service for Christ (Acts 21: 13; Phil. 1:16; Eph. 6:10-17, 1 Pet 3:15).

F. The Flying Fish. Cf. World Book. VI, p. 142.

- 1. He glides above the water, upward toward heaven: seeks to rise above the masses (enemies): travels the highest possible path. with aid of ‘it strong tail and wing like fins.
- 2. Our calling demands this kind of outlook and manner of life (Matt. 5:20. Phil. 1:27; Col 3:1-3; I Timothy 4:12).
- 3. The Christian calling is the high road (Eph 4:1—3. Heb.12 22)
- 4. Our main citizenship is in heaven (Phil. 3:20. Heb. 11:1- 6)

G. The Porpoise. Cf. World Book. XIV, pg 608

- 1. He looks like a shark, but is harmless and sharks fear him He is thus a powerful but good influence in the water.
- 2. Christians look like sinners, but will not harm you; Sinners are uncomfortable and children are safe in their presence (Matt 4:11; 5:13-16; James 4.17).

H. The Channel Trout

- 1. He swims against the current in rushing water.
- 2. Christians are flooded with temptations: Do we resist them, or just drift downward (Hebrews 2:1, 2; James 4 7)?
- 3. Christians must be able to endure great trials and persecutions with great faith (I Corinthians I 5:58; 16: 13,14. Romans 8.31-39; James 1:2-4; 1:19- 25; 2 Timothy 2:3, 4).
- 4. You know someone who can (Matt. 13 21,2 Timothy 3:12).

—Charles Crouch

STUDIES IN MARK——Lesson Two

Fishers of Men

Mark 1:16-20; Matt. 4:18-22; Luke 5:1-11

INTRODUCTION

- I. Fish are a substantial part of Gods creation (Genesis 1:20-23.28).
- II. Fish are very important as food (Luke 24:42. John 21:6-13).
 - A. The occupation of four of the Lord s apostles (Mark I: 16—20; Matt .4:18—22, Luke 5:1—11).
 - B. Fish and fishing in the world now is of great importance: World Book Encyclopedia, Vol. 6.

III. FOUR OF THE MIRACLES OF JESUS INVOLVED FISH.

- A. Tribute shekel taken from a fish s mouth (Matthew 17:27).
- B. He fed the 5,000 with five loaves and two fish (Mark 6:34—44, Matt .14:17. Luke 9:13~ John 6:9).
- C. Great niultitude of fish taken in first draft (Luke 5:5,6).
- D. Second draft took 153 (John 2 1:5-1 I).

IV. JESUS ENDORSED THE STORY OF JONAH AND THE GREAT FISH (Matthew 12:40).

DISCUSSION —

I. THE CALL OF JESUS: “TO BECOME FISHERS OF MEN”

- A The invitation “Come ye after me” (Mark 1: 17~ Matt. 4:19).
- B The challenge: “Thou shalt catch (‘take alive’) men” (Luke 5:10)
 - 1. His disciples were called to higher labor: Men are immeasurably more valuable than fish, and it is transcendently more important that we “catch” men than fish
 - 2. Fish live if not taken: They are caught to die and to be consumed
 - 3. Thus did the Pharisees catch proselytes (Matt 23:15).

- C. Our calling' To catch men to live; They die if not taken.
 - 1. Invite them to hear Chnst and "come follow me." (Matt. 4: 19; 17:5. 16:24. 28 19.20. 11 28-30)
 - 2. Must catch their minds and hearts from Satan and death.
 - 3. Must win their lives and souls for Chnst and eternity.
- D. The vital quest ion What kind of fishers of men are we?
 - 1. There may be, and probably is, a reason why Jesus selected those fishermen to be his disciples
 - 2. The qualifications required for success in one field are similar to those needed in the other

II. SOME ESSENTIALS FOR SUCCESSFUL FISHING.

- A. Faith that works, through love of fishing and its objectives.
 - 1. A strong desire to catch fish, demonstrated (James 2:18).
 - 2. Do you fish by faith or by works?
- B. Skill developed by wise use of knowledge (Heb.5: 14).
 - 1. Familiarity with the habitat of fish.
 - 2. Knowledge of good location, experience on the water; etc.
 - 3. Attractive bait and good equipment kept in constant readiness (Rom. 1:14,15, Acts 21:13,1 Peter 3:15).
- C. An atmosphere or climate conducive to good fishing.
 - 1. The North Pole, for instance, would he a poor place to catch fresh water bass with a fly rod (Matt. 10:14; Luke 10:11, Acts 13:5 1).
 - 2. During a storm on a lake is not the best time for fishing; however, storms demonstrate some things (Matt. 7:24-27; 5: 14-16).
- D. Willingness to sacrifice and suffer hardship to "bring them in" (Luke 9:23).
 - 1. Ready to go, devote time, effort and means.
 - 2. Effective fishing, although pleasant and re warding, is serious business to those who consistently succeed.
- E. Willingness to wait for "due season" (Gal. 6:9).
 - 1. Patience is a must for successful fishing.

- 2. Not every day or night is as productive as another.
- 3. Results cannot always be accurately predicted.

III. KINDS OF FISH WE MAY CATCH.

(This part of this lesson was suggested by a chapel talk by Paul Hunton at David Lipscomb College in 1947 or 1948).

- A. The Big Mouth Bass.
 - 1. A very good fish, but his outstanding part is mouth.
 - 2. In man, this is dangerous "A busybody is a person headed for hell, mouth first" '—Dan Fogarty, July 5. 1960.
 - 3. 1 Peter 4:15. 310-12: Proverbs 15:28: 18:21; 29:11; Col 4:6; Matthew 12:36. 37
- B. The Yellow Cat.
 - 1. Prefers dark or dingy water, not clear mountain streams. is at home in mud.
 - 2. Some people love rumor, suspicion, dirty stories. etc do not have high ideals, desires, ambitions travel low road (Titus 1.15; Romans 12:9, 21; James 1:19-21).
 - 3. Do not allow your mind to he poisoned by gossip, and do not be "high pressured into low living." Cf. 20th Century Christian, June, 1960, pg. 3.
- C. The Scavenger. Cf. World Book Encyclopedia, IV, 142.
 - 1. He devours refuse, filth, garbage from the mouth of the parrot fish.
 - 2. Some human minds delight in, gravitate toward the sordid, prefer to see the low, unclean, mean: Looking for the worst, they miss the best -the pure, true, excellent, beautiful.
 - 3. Philippians4:8; 1 Thess. 5:21,22.
 - 4. Such men always see "the black dot" on a clean hand or page, not the hand or page. —Ancient Faith In Conflict, p. 224.
- D. The Transparent Fish. Cf. World Book Encyclopedia, VI, p. 143.
 - 1. Can see plants through his flesh: not much substance.
 - 2. Some people have not much depth of character: Unstable,