

**Skegness Community Church - Weekly Bible Study 2025**  
**52 passages of Scripture that every believer should know**

**Week 21 - GONE FISHING**

**Mark 1: 17**

**“Come follow me”, Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men”.**

**Follow Me.** Those two words were spoken so often by our Lord. He came upon a group of fishermen who were engrossed in their lifetime fishing business, looked them squarely in the eyes, and called them to put away their nets and follow Him on a life-transforming journey. In Capernaum, Jesus saw a Jew taking up tax money for the Roman oppressors. Again, He spoke those two simple words, and Matthew put down his money pouch and followed after Him. Over and over in the Gospels we hear this simple call. When we heed Jesus' call today and become His followers, we then become interested in what he is interested in. Jesus revealed to us that He had “come to seek and to save what was lost” (Luke 19:10). The truth is, if we are genuinely following Jesus, we are also fishing. It has always been of peculiar interest to me that, when it came time to pick His team, whom He would train and then send out with a commission to reach entire nations, Jesus picked rough, callous-handed men who had spent their lives in the fishing business. He did not go to the institutions of higher learning looking for the best and the brightest. He did not go to the halls of government looking for those with gifted persuasive powers. He did not pick those most knowledgeable in the Torah. He went to Galilee, to a bunch of ragtag fishermen, and called them to follow Him with the promise that He would make them become “fishers of men”. Why them? Why fishermen? Well let me explain

**A REAL FISHERMAN IS POSITIVE**

A real fisherman is always just one cast away from landing the big one. And this is the type of person Jesus calls to follow Him. He is after those who are positive, those who see an answer to every problem, not those who look for problems in every answer. A real fisherman is positive.

**A REAL FISHERMAN IS PERSISTENT**

Winston Churchill must have learned his famous “never give up” philosophy from fishermen, who will just keep going until they land a big one. This is exactly the type of person the Lord Jesus knew it would take to transform the world. He goes after those who are not simply positive but persistent. He calls people who have a “never give up” attitude, who keep on keeping on, regardless of the circumstances or situation. A real fisherman is persistent.

**A REAL FISHERMAN IS PATIENT**

Jesus knew when He called those fishermen to follow Him that one of their common characteristics was patience. They could not have spent their lives at this trade without it. He knew that those who followed Him would have to be patient in future times when the situation would appear hopeless. Jesus is still looking for men and women who are not locked into one way of doing things. He desires us to be willing to try different methods as we fish for the souls of men. Jesus knows that a real fisherman is patient.

**A REAL FISHERMAN IS PASSIONATE**

Jesus knew that a real fisherman is passionate. He hates to lose one! This is the type of person Jesus wants on His team. He is still calling passionate people to follow Him. He longs for His followers to always hate to lose one. When building our churches today we must try to look for those who are positive, persistent, patient, and passionate. Indeed these are the qualities that Jesus is looking for each of us to have so that we become “fishers of men, (and women)” for the kingdom of God.

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As you memorise this verse, meditate on the wonder that the Lord Jesus still uses ordinary people like you and me to do extraordinary things for His glory. Be positive; start looking for an answer to every problem. Be persistent; never give up. Be patient; try some different methods. And be passionate; always hate to lose one! Jesus said, *“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”*