**Let's Go Fishing In The Church Pond**

(Mark 1:16-20 KJV)

*16 Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. 17And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men. 18And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him. 19And when he had gone a little further thence, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending their nets. 20And straightway he called them: and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, and went after him.*

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s many preachers have heard in the past—I too heard the story about a man who was a phenomenal fisherman. He was so good that his fame spread in his community. When everyone else was catching two or three fish a day he would come back with two or three hundred. And eventually the local game warden decided to investigate him because it just sounded too good to be true.

So, on a certain day, the game warden showed up at the man’s door, identified himself, and asked to go fishing with him. The man was receptive to the offer and off they went to the lake. When they got into the boat, immediately the warden noticed that something was fishy and didn’t seem right. The man didn’t have any fishing poles, he had no fishing line, he had no corks, and neither did he have any weights or baits. In fact, he didn’t even have a tackle box. All he had was a small duffel bag!

So off they went, chatting about this and that until the man maneuvered the boat to the middle of the lake. And without a word, he turned off the motor, reached into the duffel bag and pulled out what looked like a stick of dynamite. Surprisingly, before the warden could say anything, he lit it and threw it into the water. It exploded BOOM! — With a mighty roar and stunned fish by the dozens floated to the surface. The man calmly started his boat and began gathering the fish in his net.

The warden said, “Now see here. This is highly illegal.” But the man just laughed and steered the boat to another part of the lake. He did the same thing with a second stick of dynamite BOOM!—and sure enough more fish floated to the surface.

So by this time the warden had seen enough. He said, “Mister, you’ve broken so many laws I can’t even begin to count all the violations.” The man just laughed himself to tears and pulled out another stick of dynamite. The warden kept on talking repeatedly —“This is illegal possession of dynamite and illegal detonation of dangerous material and disturbing the peace and about a half-dozen other misdemeanors and felonies.” While the warden was still talking, the man calmly with boldness lit another stick of dynamite and handed it to the game warden. As he did he asked him the question fishermen always ask, “Are you going Mr. Warden to talk or are you going to fish?”

Let's be perfectly honest, that every Christian who follows Jesus will soon someday go fishing spiritually and catch fish but the question is, "In what fashion will you catch them, and what kind will you catch?" So, I wanna go fishing in the church pond to observe the techniques you use and what lures the fish to choose your hook and nibble on it until you snatch them with the hook and then reel them in.

Mark tells us that John was "handed over" to be put into prison and await his trial or execution for preaching the word of God, all because he vehemently violated the laws of Judaism. So this meant that John's voice would be silenced throughout Judea—but Jesus reached and grab the baton and returned to Galilee and began to preach the continuance of the gospel. Insomuch so the same disciples which walked in the ministry of John, also weaved themselves into the ministry of Jesus with an invitation of the two famous words of Jesus, "Follow Me!"

1. **The Plea Of Jesus—Come After Me:**

(Mark 1:17 KJV)

*And Jesus said unto them,* ***Come ye after me****, and I will make you to become fishers of men.*

*Jesus said to the disciples "Come ye after me"* (Mark 1:17). In Matthew the same words are translated *"Follow me"* (Matthew 4:19). The instructions involved three important parts. **First**, the instruction involved **submission**. *"Come ye after me."* When you follow, you are going where someone else has been longing to go. To follow the Lord means to do His will. **Second**, the instruction also involved **separation**. To follow Christ meant separation from others—not just from notorious people but also, as here, from nice people such as from kindred's and friends. **Third**, the instruction also involved the **Savior**. *"Me."* Christ is the focus in this calling of disciples. And Christ must be our prime motivation and interest in helping to fish spiritually and help catch some souls.