

One day, Jesus was walking along the shore and He called four men to follow Him and it was very clear up front about his agenda for these potential followers.

He said, “Follow Me and I am going to make you into something that you aren’t already.”

If Jesus were to say that to me, I would think of all kinds of things that I would love for him to make His followers into....More disciplined More spiritual A better husband A better father.
Smarter Richer More organized

Jesus’ Agenda for His Followers

Mark 1:16-18 And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.

17 Then Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”

18 They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

Mark 1:19-20 When He had gone a little farther from there, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the boat mending their nets. 20 And immediately He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went after Him.

They followed Him and they had no idea what He even meant by “I will make you a fisher of men.”

Followers Fish

Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John followed and they fished. They shared the good news of Jesus with others, who in turn shared it with someone else, and here we are 2000 years later. Why? Because Followers Fish:

- Tax Collectors fished / Prostitutes fished / People who were demon-possessed fished.
- These people didn’t just follow, they became fishers for men!

When Jesus calls us to follow Him, he is calling us to be fishers of men as well.

- Jesus’ goal for you is not just for you to follow so you can be a better person.
- His goal for you is to follow and to do what other Christ followers have all learned to do, fish.

When we became a Christian, none of us really signed up for that!

- You didn’t say, “I want to become a Christian because I want to be a fisher of men.”
- Who wants to do that?

Most of us became a Christian for selfish motives.

- To go to heaven rather than hell. Maybe, you became a Christian: For marriage help / Freedom from addictions / New job / Need a boyfriend / Wanted to get rid of a boyfriend.

The emphasis was **“I need something.”** But now, you are starting to realize that there are other things that God wants us to do as well.

I Don’t Know If I Can Fish

Sometimes, it’s difficult to look at ourselves and think that we can be great fishermen.

- Testimony versus no testimony. / Too young / too old.
- I can’t talk / I talk too much! / I’m too educated. / I’m too uneducated.

But Jesus said, “I will MAKE YOU.”

- Fishing for men isn’t about wearing a cross, a cool t-shirt, or going door to door witnessing.
- It’s not about a method or a process.
- It’s about allowing God to mold you and make you, to use us for His purposes.

God Has You Perfectly Positioned to Fish

- There are people who will listen to you that will never listen to me.
- God has brought you through the experiences of life to make you a better fisher of men.
- Your personality, education, job, career, your failures, breakups, addictions, and life experience (both good and bad) have prepared you to be a fisher of men.

Followers Look for Fish

You must look for the opportunity, and you must fish. *Example:* Meteor Shower / Sand dollar.

Bold Next Step: Memorize Luke 19:10- “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”

Why Fish? Because Lost People Matter to God

Jesus was hanging out with a group of irreligious, lost people, and He is being criticized for it. **Luke 15:1-2**

In a very strong and deliberate way, Jesus answered those who criticized by telling, not one, but three parables back-to-back to demonstrate just how God feels about lost people.

The Lost **Sheep** Luke 15:3-7

3 Then Jesus told them this parable: 4 “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?

5 And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders 6 and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’

7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

The Lost **Coin** Luke 15:8-10

8 “Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?

9 And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’

10 In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

The Lost **Son** Luke 15:11-24

11 Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

13 “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

17 “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!

18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’

20 So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

21 “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it.

Let’s have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

Common Threads in All Three Parables:

1. “Something of great value was lost.” Jesus’ Point - Lost people matter to God.

2. “The lost item was so valuable that it warranted an all-out search.”

A. You can tell how much you value something by the amount of “Search” you undertake for it.

1. Tennis Balls 2. Wallet 3. Child

B. Searches are Costly (Missing Person’s Report 24 hours to 3 days) (Large/ limited/ cost)

3. “There was great rejoicing when the lost item was found.”

Two Life Applications in Luke 15

A. You may be here today and feel like you are the sinner, the lost sheep, the lost coin, or the lost son.

- You may resent Jesus referring to you as lost, but you realize that relationally you are lost.
- The good news is Jesus loves the lost and you are very valuable to Him.
- You were so valuable to God that He allowed His Son to be sacrificed for you.
- Not only do you warrant an all-out search, but today you will have the opportunity to be found.
- You are why God sent us to Statesboro 20 years ago!

B. You may be here today as “the found”. We now have the responsibility and honor to help Jesus find others. Followers Fish.

- We who were once searched for are now the searchers.
- Because Lost People Matter to God, lost people matter to us.
- This is why God sent us to Statesboro to be a church of authentic Christianity expressed in love, acceptance, and forgiveness.