

Week of March 4-10

SO, HOW ARE THEY BITING?

Scripture Reading: Read Luke chapter 5

When was a kid I, my dad used to take me camping on Lake Ontario. We had some great father-son times. Often, we would get up early to do some fishing and to watch the sun rise. It was so much fun to go out on the pier at Hamlin Beach, bait the hook and throw in a line with the hope of catching a few fish. My dad really loved fishing, listening to the sound of the waves crashing against the shore and hearing the sound of sea gulls in the air. I can still remember him asking the other fishermen, "So are they biting today?"

When I became a father, I took my kids back to Hamlin Beach to camp and to fish. One time, one of my kids caught a fish. I realized then I had better start praying that the other three caught one too or it might not be the most relaxing vacation after all. What a blessing that the Lord answered my prayers and by the time we left the pier, each child had caught one fish.

In our text, Jesus finds four fishermen that had fished all night and had caught nothing. They were tired. They were frustrated. They had to wash and mend their nets with the hopes of finding success another night. Into their world stepped Jesus. More accurately, into one of their boats stepped Jesus as he began to teach the crowds. When he was finished, he commanded the fishermen to go fishing. I can only imagine what the disciples were thinking. "This rabbi is a carpenter, a landlubber. We're fishermen. We have been doing this our whole life. He doesn't know what he is saying." Yet, they obeyed. Why? Maybe it was the authority in his command. Maybe it was the way he taught. All we know is that they obeyed and when they were done they had a catch so great that it almost sunk their boats.

In response, Peter fell to his knees. He knows he doesn't measure up to the holiness and power of this rabbi. Jesus, however, reassures him not to be afraid. He informs Peter and his companions that will continue their fishing expeditions but they will be changing their catch. From now on, they'll be catching people. What an encouragement for these fishermen to know that the same Jesus who empowered a supernatural catch of natural fish will be the same Jesus who empowers them for a supernatural spiritual catch.

We are called to follow in the family business and to do some fishing ourselves. There is a catch waiting. So throw in a net or drop a line and go fishing. The fish are biting!

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Action Step: Take a few moments to reflect on someone you know that doesn't know Jesus. Be open to the Holy Spirit as you interact with that person and go fishing.

Prayer Focus: Pray for the person that came to mind under the action step. Ask the Lord to soften their heart and to prepare them to hear the gospel.

Take-a-way: Faithful believers have posted "Gone Fishin'" signs on the doors of their lives.