

## Friday – The What and Where of Fishing

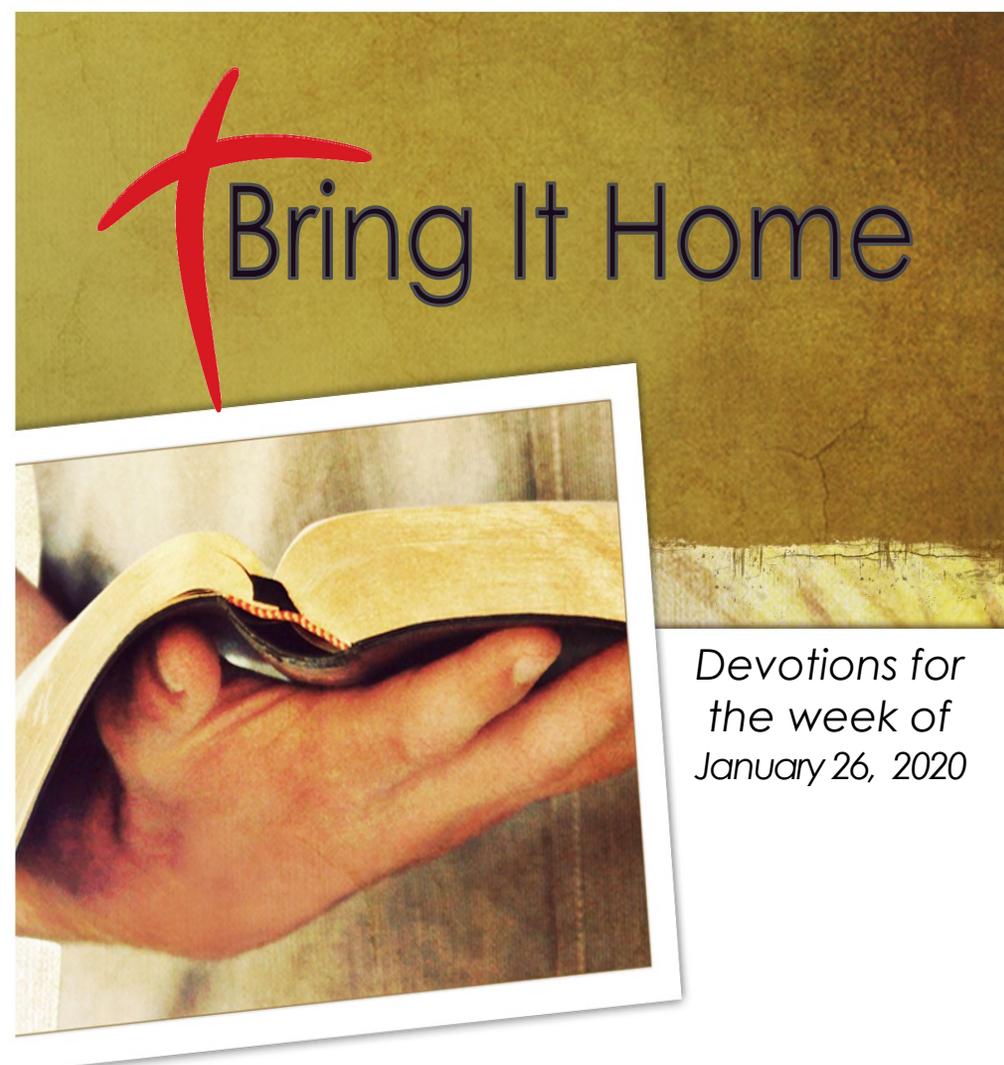
When it comes to fishing, you need sharp hooks and strong enough line, a good rod and reel, and you need to watch the water to see where the fish are and what bugs or flies they are going after. Thankfully fishing for people is less complicated. The only equipment you need when it comes to fishing for people is a heart for God filled with the Holy Spirit. You also have to know where the lost, hungry, and hurting people are so you need the eyes of God and a heart willing to be broken for the things that break God's heart. The lost, the hungry, and the hurting are all around us. People are hungry for the truth, for love, they are lost and confused by all the lies that are being spoken in our world right now. And if they are hurting it's because we humans tend to be unkind when we forget our God. In the Gospels of Luke chapter 5 and John chapter 21 Jesus tells the disciples where to throw their nets so they can catch fish. In both stories the disciples took Jesus at His word and they caught so many fish that the nets begin to tear and they could hardly haul the nets in. So be bold and try casting a net of God's love to your co-workers, neighbors, or friends and see what God will do. Or maybe you feel like you're the one who is lost, hurting, or hungry. If you feel this way, don't let fear of being found out or fear of letting others down keep you from asking for help. Jesus is here for you, ready and eager to bring you His good news of love and hope.

## Saturday – Following Jesus

"Come, follow Me... and immediately they left their nets and followed Jesus." (Matthew 4:19-20) Read those first three words again and let them settle in your ears. Wherever you are right now, whether you are sitting at the kitchen table, at your desk at work, or in a chair in the waiting room at the doctor's office, read those three words again and hear Jesus speaking to you. What comes to your mind? What moves in your heart? Did you think, "I'd love to, but...", or perhaps, "where are we going?" Maybe you felt compelled to move or maybe you just thought, "Okay!" Whatever you thought or whatever you felt, don't worry about it or judge it. That's not your job. Spend the next few minutes in prayerful conversation with God about your response and trust Him with it. Ask God to continue to transform you to be more like His Son each and every day. Let Him do His great work of revealing Himself to you! Thank Him for calling you to, "Come, and follow Him."

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This week's *Bring it Home* devotions were written by Rhonda Frerichs.  
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## What Now?

Let this week be a fishing excursion! Be praying for opportunities to "reveal" Jesus to and share His love with some of the people with whom you cross paths throughout the week.

### **Monday – Jesus’ Mission our Mission**

In this season of Epiphany Pastor Glen has been leading us through the sermon series, “Revealed.” We have looked at Jesus as The True Light that gives life to every human, and how precious and holy life is and how Jesus’ light is in us. This week Pastor talked about Jesus being revealed by us. Our Gospel reading for this week from Matthew 4:12-23 reminds us that Jesus has called us to Him, to follow Him, and that we are to call others to Him. The portion of Scripture right before Jesus begins preaching and calling His disciples is loaded with amazing activity. Please take a few moments to read Matthew 3:14- 4:11. Imagine yourself there at His baptism, hearing our heavenly Father speak over Him. Go with Jesus into the wilderness – think about what it would be like to fast for forty days and nights. And then watch how our Lord handles being tempted by the devil. After He is tended to by the angels, what does Jesus do? He jumps right into His mission! Read Matthew 4:12-22. Jesus fulfills the Scriptures from Isaiah 9:1-2 and He begins to preach, “Repent for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” Jesus is the “Great Light” in the darkness. He has brought the kingdom near and we get to join Him on His mission as His “Fishers of humankind.” Today as you close your devotional time, thank Jesus for being tempted in every way we are so we can relate to Him. Thank Him for fulfilling the Scriptures, for being the Great Light in the darkness, and for calling and equipping us to be “light bearers” with Him.

### **Tuesday – Following Jesus and Fishing for People**

The Gospel reading for this week from Matthew 4:12-23 is one of my favorite stories for two reasons. 1. I remember as a child learning the song, “Fishers of Men,” in Sunday School. This brought a smile to my face. And, 2. I enjoy fishing! But what does it mean to be a “fisher of humankind?” If you have the ability to click on the link, please watch this short video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WKMReKSwdhU> What did these beautiful children say it meant to be a “Fisher of Men”? They kept it simple, didn’t they? It means first, you follow Jesus right away, you gather people to come to Jesus, you help other people, you teach them about Jesus and the Gospel, you help the poor, and you encourage people to come to church. Jesus wants us to follow the Commandments, always pray and read our Scriptures; He wants us to be like Him. Today I encourage you to follow Jesus in attitude and action thanking Him for calling you as His child and as one of His “fisher people.” Go through your day with this song in your heart.

I will make you fishers of men, Fishers of men, fishers of men.  
I will make you fishers of men, if you follow Me.

If you follow Me, If you follow Me,  
I will make you fishers of men, If you follow Me.

Hear Christ calling "Come unto Me, Come unto Me, Come unto Me."  
Hear Christ calling "Come unto Me, I will give You rest."  
"I will give you rest. I will give you rest."  
Hear Christ calling "Come unto Me, I will give you rest."

**Written by: Harry D. Clarke, Copyright: Unknown**

### **Wednesday – Fishing for Whom, What, and Where**

Yesterday I mentioned that our Gospel reading was one of my favorites because I find great joy in fishing. I get so excited at the feel of a fish striking at my bait and getting the hook set right so you can land the fish – it’s all so exhilarating to me. I enjoy fishing from the shore, on the river, from a boat, and even on ice. What I enjoy about fishing is choosing the right size hook and bait and watching the water so I chose the right type of bug or fly so I actually hook a fish. There is a lot involved in actual fishing – at least we fallen humans can make it a process where we are involved and actively engaged in making it happen. Fishing for people may seem like that, too, but I think you just need the basics. You need to know the **who** (or what type of fish is in the water), **what** they like to eat, and **where** they like to hang out. I see it as the same as reaching out/fishing for people. If we look at verses 22-25 of Matthew chapter 4, Jesus went to the people. He knew their type – broken, sick, blind, deaf, hurting, diseased, and demon-possessed. He knew what they needed and He gave that to them. He knew where they liked to hang out and He went to them with the Good News of His kingdom. When Jesus did that, news about Him spread.

### **Thursday – Fishing for Whom**

Who are we to fish for or reach out to? In Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus said, “Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Jesus came for the weary and burdened, the sick and oppressed, the lost, the orphan, the widow, and the foreigner. He is still calling us to follow His example and reach out to the orphans, the homeless, the veterans, and the foreigners in our community, the elderly in our community and church, the widows in our neighborhoods and church, those are struggling, hurting, or losing hope. So put on your favorite fishing hat and waders and don’t be afraid to wade right in with Jesus. Today spend some time in prayer asking God to show you in your neighborhood or in the circles where you travel, who might be an orphan or widow or elderly person who could use a friend. Pray for the opportunity to connect with those people and ask for the courage to reach out to them.