

Fishermen

We know that at least four of the twelve apostles were fishermen (Peter, Andrew, James and John). In looking at Matthew 4: 19, ("And He said to them, Follow Me. And I will make you fishers of men"), I started thinking about some of the traits that fishermen have that apply to us today as we seek the lost.

Fishermen were patient. We read in John 21: 3 – 6 that seven apostles and disciples went fishing and they had spent all night fishing catching nothing. We read that with some assistance from Jesus they were able to net so many fish they couldn't pull the net in. What if they had only fished for a little while became discouraged, and returned back to land? They would have caught no fish. I think today we become discouraged too easily and decide that fish (lost soul) isn't going to be caught. How patient is God with us? We need to be that patient with sinners.

A fisherman is hard working. The fishermen in John had fished all night. Do you think those fishermen just put their net down and waited? I'm sure they would have moved the boat around periodically checking the net to see if they were being successful. I think today we want to bait the hook, put the line in the water, and wait for a bite. If our bait is taken, we will work with the fish (sinner). If no one takes our bait, we say that at least we have tried and go away feeling that we have done our duty.

A fisherman knows where to fish. True that fish can be almost anywhere in the sea and lost souls can be found almost anywhere; however, in some places fish (lost sinners) are more likely to be found and successfully caught than others. The professional fishermen we read about in John probably knew those places that they had had success in the past. I am speculating but I imagine that once those places didn't lead to success, they tried different places. If you aren't catching sinners evaluate where and how you are fishing. You may be looking in the wrong place and/or you may be using the wrong approach (bait). Don't be afraid to try new approaches or seek in new areas.

What kind of fisherman are you? God expects us today to seek and save the lost following in the apostle's example of being fishermen of men. There are many ways to seek lost souls and you can do something even if it's sending a card. Your efforts may touch a lost person may not bring immediate success but may help make them consider their lost condition and more receptive to another fisherman. Remember the important thing is to save the lost soul.

Larry Benson

I Am the Older Brother **Luke 15:11-32**

When we read a story or watch a television show, we often attempt to make a connection with the characters. We see similarities in these characters that make us connect with them in ways that are fun, emotional, and memorable. We do the same thing as we read stories in the Bible. This is one of the many reasons why Jesus spoke in parables. If we look at the Greek word for parable, it means, “to lay alongside of.” In other words, Jesus took something his audience knew and used it to illustrate something they didn’t know. Jesus does this with the story at hand.

Most of us are probably familiar with the story of the prodigal son. He left his home, family, and future to run off and blow everything he had on the pleasures of this world. Eventually he had nowhere else to turn and returned to his father at home. It is a wonderful thing when someone comes home! In this story, the father is so relieved to have his child back that he throws him a “welcome home” party. On top of all this, the father gives him all the symbols of being his child, including a signet ring placed on his finger. This story would be a happy ending if it stopped here, but it doesn’t.

The older brother complained that he had always been with the father and yet there was no celebration over him. Too many times, we feel as if God couldn’t care less if we were here or gone. We stay, we serve, and yet the “blessings” as we see them never come. However, this story is very quick to tell us that we are all valued by God whether we are in the fold or lost. Verse 31 addresses the older son and says, “Son, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours.” The father never forgot or neglected the older son and then goes on to explain why there is such a celebration.

You are loved and valued by God. Are you like the prodigal son? Are you lost and desperate to come home? If so, please know that you will be received with open arms by the Heavenly Father and his church. If you are feeling like the older brother in that you feel forsaken and taken for granted, know that God loves you and values you in the kingdom. We need to be like the Father, not the older brother.

Joshua Houston

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

SICK

Lester & Ann Clark, Ernestine Taylor

TAKING TREATMENTS

Lois Arnold, Carolyn Thomas, Janneil Brown

SHUT INS

Rita Reed, Mabel Robertson, Houston Henry, Oleta Bullard

PRAYER REQUEST:

Shirley Bibb, Opal Jones, Dan & Lorene Stephens, Wayne Mobbs, Marie Fleming, Lorene Maddox, Imogene Bozeman, Selma Boyd, Janneil Brown, Gerald Wiseman, Melba Young, Jeanie Young, Oleta Bullard, Mabel Robertson, Laura Wiser, Ernestine Taylor, Melanie Martin, Mary Creech

NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:

*MEMBERS

ADAMS PLACE: Nora Fann*

DIVERSICARE OF SMYRNA: Jean Nickens*

NHC: Sue Reeves*, Lizzie Bush, Geri Melton*

STONES RIVER MANOR: Edna Vance*, Virgie Leonard*, Margaret Davidson*, Jeweldean Hall*, Laura Wiser*, Lillian Whitworth, Louise McKnight*, Martha DeVore

MILITARY

Please keep **Tony Berry** in your prayers, while he is stationed in California at Camp Pendleton.

***Visitors** - We are happy you chose to worship with us today! Please fill out a visitor's card and place it in the collection plate.

BUILDING FUND

We have received donations to the Building Fund in memory of **Mary Jo Rogers** by the following:

***Laura Wiser**

***Dorothy Stroop**

***Dianne Stroop**

***Dean Thompson**

***John & Anne Fults**

***Andy & Lisa Mitchell**

***Charles & Sue Reeves** ***Robert & Ann Jenkins**

***Don & Canita Campbell**

***Mark & Deborah Isenberg**

***Lanny & Charlotte Markum**

***Salem Creek church of Christ**

***Gregory Dancer & Stephanie Gellar**

We have received donations to the Building Fund in memory of **Clyde Jones, Betty Shoemaker** and **Robert Arnold** by the following:

***Laura Wiser**

***Dorothy Stroop**

NEWS & NOTES

*If you have a name for the **Barnabas** list, please fill out a Barnabas card and place it in the collection plate.

***MTCs Chorus** will be performing after tonight's evening service. Salem Creek members are asked bring a potluck dish for the chorus group and their families.

***Youth/college retreat** the deadline to sign-up is March 16th and the deadline to pay is March 30th. The cost is \$35 and checks can be made out to Salem Creek church of Christ. Also, be sure to get a medical release form from Joshua Houston.

***Visitation Team #1** will meet on Sunday, March 13th.

***Youth Devo-** Sunday, March 13th.

***Special Kid's Race** on Saturday, March 19th @ 7 a.m.

***Ladies Day** at East Main church of Christ on Saturday, April 30th. For more information, see flier in foyer.

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We're on the web!
www.salemcreekcoc.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday	
Morning Worship	9:00 am
Bible Classes	10:15 am
Evening Worship	5:30 pm
Wednesday	
Ladies Morning Bible Class	10:00 am
Evening Bible Classes	6:30 pm

ELDERS

B.K. Ham
Jim Hatfield
Jon Holland
Andy Mitchell
Randall Phifer
Fred Rogers
Keith Short

MINISTER

Ron Harper

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Joshua Houston

DEACONS

Larry Benson
Michael Bowman
Craig Buckner
Bob Hoover

Andy Melton
Brian Melton
Alan Pepper
Wendell Wilson

FOR THE RECORD

February 28, 2016

Sunday	AM worship	229
	Bible classes	176
	PM worship	131
	Contribution	\$6,369.41

Wednesday PM Bible classes 114

Wednesday AM Ladies Class (Sept-May) 14

**When county schools are closed due to inclement weather
AM Ladies Class will be cancelled**

GREETERS

Please be at the door 15
minutes prior to services!



March 6

Dorothy Stroop
Regenia Grissom

March 13

Louise Smithson
Keith & Margaret Short

To Our Honored Guests...

We are happy you chose to worship with us today! Please stay after our assembly so that we can get acquainted with you and your family. We invite you to come back as often as you have opportunity!

We were honored by your presence!