

**Fish or Cut Bait:
A Commitment to Obedience
Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2**

Fish or cut bait? What that means...preparing to do something but not actually doing it. Getting ready to fish, having all the gear, but not ever reaching to water in order to fish. Preparing to golf, but never golfing...just wearing the clothes. Preparing to shop, but never really shopping...just walking in the mall.

What the Principles of Commitment and Obedience is all about:

1. It's all about doing the next thing.

Matt 28:16

After Jesus rose from the dead, He instructed the women to tell the disciples to Galilee. Simple obedience...the doing the next thing.

What is the next thing for you personally? Where are you spiritually? What has He told you to do, that you have disregarded?

Some pet sin? Some spiritual discipline? Some decision?

Key thought: Don't expect God to give you something new to do, when you haven't done what He has previously asked you to do!

This is where many are stopped dead in the tracks. Stagnation, cynicism, apathy is the result of disobedience.

The quickest way to get unstuck is to acknowledge your 'stuckness', own it, repent and then do, by faith what He has previously asked you to do...only then will the concrete crack in your heart and life, only then will you be able to move forward with peace and joy.

For some of us...this is all the sermon we need to hear today. If you continue to avoid what He has said for you to do, the harder it will be to break free in the future.

2. It's all about worship. Matt 28:17

If you aren't worshipping, you probably aren't witnessing. If don't see Jesus and fall at His feet in honor and adoration, you will never get to obedience. If you don't see who He is and act accordingly, you will never move to calling others to do the same.

Worship is not about music in the air; it's about the attitude of the heart!

Worship is not about location of one's body; it's about focus of one's thoughts!

Worship is not about what you feel; it's about who you see!

The path to real worship is real obedience!

How to you begin to really worship? See point one!

3. It's all about sorting it out. Matt 28:17

Can you believe it? Some where there who did not believe what they were seeing! If you have trouble believing what you are seeing, then you will have difficulty believing what you do not see...and that's faith.

Good news...Jesus welcomes doubters, even at His resurrection! He just doesn't want you to stay there...what's He going to have to do in order to help you through? I don't know...but He does.

Some need to sort it with God about: **particular prayers not being answered** like desired, **bad events in** the past where God has taken the blame for not intervening to prevent, **disappointments/disagreements** with fellow Christians which has caused dismay and disillusionment, **broken dreams** never realized.

How do you begin to sort it out? 1. Start by **owning** it...2. **talk** it, process it out loud with a safe person (one who will not condemn you or try to fix you with their words), 3. **pray** it. Christians who need to sort it out avoid church and spiritual conversation like the plague...Christians who know people who need to sort it out, just need to pray for them, love them, and be there for them when they are ready to begin the process...

Did those who 'doubted' ever get it fixed? WE DO NOT KNOW...let God handle that one, let God handle your friend or loved one who is there...

How do you really begin to sort it out? See point one! You've got to get in His presence with your doubts.

4. It's all about authority. Matt 28:18

All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth....

So who are you going to follow...to believe...to live for?

This is a major issue. How you live tells everyone who your authority is!

How do you know if you are living with and under His authority? See point one!

5. It's all about life-purpose. Matt 28:19

Choosing to live going about your life to make disciples...baptizing them, teaching them.

Key thought: The purpose of discipleship is not just to know more, but to win more!

If you are just learning more, and not sharing Christ, you are just cutting bait, wearing the clothes, walking the mall...not fishing! You've got to do both....you cut bait only, you will smell like you've been fishing but you will have no fish to show for it.

Imagine the scene in heaven: Oh Lord, look at all that bait I cut!

What will it take for you to live your purpose? See point one!

6. It's all about empowerment. Matt 28:20; Acts 1:8; Acts 2

When they were baptized by the Spirit...filled with the Spirit...they sensed and acted upon the Spirit's leadership and empowerment to do the plan of God.

At salvation, we are baptized by the Spirit...that's it! With His filling, Eph 5:18 (Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit)

What will it take for you to get empowered? See point one!