

The Best Guide Ever
Matt 4:18-20

I've fished with freshwater, fly-fishing guides in rivers and lakes; bass fishing guides in central Florida for big largemouth, in alligator country, but I've spent hundreds of hours with saltwater fishing guides, from the church I pastored in Florida...Richard Bradley, Lagoon fishing guide service, and RT Trosset in Key West, 207 IGFA World Records. A great guide provides transportation to the fish, the tackle and bait, the location to catch the fish and the technique to use in order to do so. They must know how to navigate the waters well, watch the weather and even be ready to administer first aid, i.e. fishing hooks in hands, keeping you safe, i.e. Zach, with feet off boat, barracuda bait

He's the best ever because:

1. It all depends on His **ability**.

"I will make you"

Legendary Everglades fishing guide, Steve Huff once said that his job is, simply, to "make an angler's dream come true."

Aren't you glad your success in the Christian life is about His ability to change you!

Phil 1:6 'being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you, will carry it on to the completion until the day of Christ Jesus.'

2. It all begins with His **promise**.

"I will..." describing process.

You are a new creation that is in process...

2 Cor 5:17-18 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.'

There is often a big learning curve between becoming a new creation and taking on the actual ministry of reconciliation...but that is His responsibility and His promise to do so.

Justification, Sanctification, Glorification...doctrines of salvation.

3. It all rests upon His **call**.

'Follow me.' **Hear the guide and choose to come, and follow...**because you heard His call. He has initiated this by:

Walking specifically in your direction....by the Sea of Galilee

Seeing you individually as you are...he saw two brothers

Engaging you where you are...they were fisherman, casting a net

Speaking to you in language you understand... 'I will make you fishers of men'

4. It all focuses upon His **purpose**.

You are important to Him...you can do something. His purpose is you are developed into a fisher of men and catch men. **Not about us getting on His boat and watching Him fish**, but being in His church and experience Him equipping us to actively fish for the Kingdom of God.

Declare: 'I'm important to God!'

'God has a plan for my life!'

'I can do something personally for His Kingdom!'

5. It's all about His **patience**.

He is teaching us to fish by:

1. **Being** with Him

2. Providing **training** (specialized guides for particular species...He knows them all. We learn by watching, listening and then doing)

3. Showing you **your place** (you are not a fish, but a fisher of fish...stop acting like a fish.) "Fish will not be fishers. The ungodly man will not convert an ungodly man. A worldly Christian will not convert the world...." "I believe that the one reason why the church of God at this present moment has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the church." Charles H. Spurgeon, 1906

4. Following His **lead**. (what lures to use, how to bait the hook and present the bait or lure, how to retrieve it, which is another lesson altogether...copying His example) John 5:19 ***"Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.***

5. Show you **where** to fish.

6. It's all about His **cleaning**.

That's what the guide does.

The bottom line is: if you are in the boat, FISH....if you are still in the water of the world, and you see, hear, smell, feel, sense His lure come by, STRIKE now!

III. Fishing with Bob...never been baptized. 'I thought one day, we would be fishing together and the subject of baptism would come up...and you would baptize me in this lake.'

"Bob, it's February and that water is too cold...let's use the church's baptistery!"

7. It's all about His **training** you to become a **guide yourself**.

Remember, the Great Commission...

The disciples didn't start fishing immediately...but they did start following. He taught them, He showed them His compassion for people. He revealed His power to them. He even invited them into experiencing His powerful presence themselves (calming the storm, Matthew 9), He collected all kinds of 'fish' (fishermen, tax collector...)

The training never ends.

Ill. Sophomore in High School....surfing instructor. Lady with her son and surfboard...do you know how to surf?

There comes a time, He will provide you with the opportunity...will you train others what you yourselves are learning to do?