

+WEEKLY SERMON

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Fishing for people (the right way!)

As a teenager, I used to fish the canal close to home, often with my friend. I was very good at catching weeds and trees and not quite as good at catching fish. On one sunny day, I cast into the water but there was no customary splash on the water. Assuming I was caught on the tree behind, I began to whip my fishing rod backwards and forwards trying to free my hook until my friend screamed for me to stop. What I had actually done was hook him in the face and was pulling at his cheek. A quick trip to hospital and a tetanus jab later, he was fine.

I am not sure this is what Jesus had in mind when he calls his first disciples by the Sea of Galilee. Accomplished fishermen themselves, Jesus calls brothers Andrew and Simon to leave their life of fishing behind to follow Him and He promises to make them fishers of men. Their response is both humbling and challenging as they leave their livelihoods behind to follow Jesus to go on an adventure of faith with no certainty of where they will go and what amazing things they will see and do. We are called to do the same.

Firstly, to be willing to put our trust in Him, depend on Him and follow Him wherever He would lead us. This is no easy task but must start each day with an act of the will and a decision to choose to live, not for ourselves but for the one who made us, knows us better than ourselves and loves us.

Secondly, we are called to go and share the gospel with others in our homes, workplaces and places of leisure.

My fishing days are well behind me, but I choose the adventure of faith with the one who calls me and sends me to fish for people.

Rev Craig Abbott, Head of Children, Youth and Chaplaincy

HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES