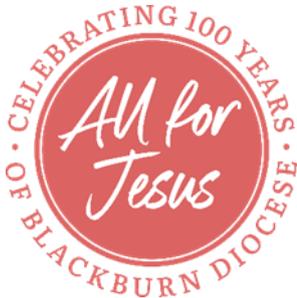


+WEEKLY SERMON

communicate@blackburn.anglican.org



Going Fishing

Matthew 4:18-22

Then He said to them “come follow me and I will make you a fisher of men”. Catching fish, if you’re not equipped, prepared and experienced, is not that easy, a lot of work goes into it. We need the right kit, rod, reel, fishing line, bate and tackle, you may even need a licence. Are you going to fish from the shore or boat and where is the best catch to be found?

The same can be said for being fishers of men, if we are to do it, we need to be equipped for the job. Jesus told Peter and Andrew to leave their fishing business and become “fishers of men” to help others find God. They were experienced fishermen, had all the right gear, it was their trade and they were good at it. There were other witnesses to this call, James and John, Jesus had just landed a great catch. He cast in His line, they’d taken the bait, they were thoroughly convinced that following Jesus would change their lives for ever. Having said that these first four fishers of men had a good bit to learn, they had to be equipped for the task ahead of them. For them the fishing grounds were nearby in Galilee were there was a plentiful supply of men’s souls ready to be caught.

But what about us, are we to be fishers of our brothers and sisters? The answer is clearly Yes, in *Matthew 28:16-20* Jesus commands his disciples to go and make disciples of all nations, as a result we, 2000 year later, are now his disciples and we to are to obey his commands. We are suitably equipped; we have our scriptures to lead us on. We know our nearest fishing grounds, our families, work colleagues, friends. When’s a good time to go fishing, whenever the opportunity arises. How should we do it, confidently, sympathetically, positively, if possible, pray before you cast your line. Maybe you are not the most confident of speakers, in that case show it by your actions with your Christian lifestyle.

It’s all our jobs to fish for souls. If we live a Christian lifestyle putting Christ’s teaching into practice, sharing the gospel with others, we will be able to draw those around us to Christ. Just like those early fishermen called By Jesus while they were pulling fish into their boats.

Geoff Hutchinson, LLM Emertus, Blackburn The Redeemer Benefice

HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES