

Christ Is Worthy
1 Corinthians 15:1-9

“Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” (Mark 1:17 [ESV](#))

And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.” And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.” (Luke 5:9-11 [ESV](#))

Truth: To follow Jesus requires we fish for men.

We fish for men when we ...

1. Talk to people about who God is. (January 4)
2. Talk to people about the problem we have. (January 11)
3. Talk to people about what God has done. (January 18)
4. Talk to people about what we must do. (January 25)

Main Idea: God in love sent His Son Jesus into the world to die in our place for our sin. God raised Jesus bodily from the dead to testify to the effectiveness of Jesus’ sacrifice for sin and to testify to Jesus’ victory over death.

Affirmation #1: The Gospel Changes Lives

Application: When we share the Gospel, it is good to tell people that the Gospel will change their life if they receive it. As you fish for men, tell your story of God’s transforming power in your life.

Application: As we look for motivation to fish for men, remind yourself of the Gospel’s transforming work in your own life.

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God **for salvation** to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.” (Romans 1:16 [ESV](#))*

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” (2 Corinthians 5:17 [ESV](#))

Affirmation #2: The Gospel Is a Message from God

Truth: The apostles did not emphasize Jesus’ compassion, nor His emphasis on love, nor His heightened morality, nor His miracles so much as the apostles placed primary attention upon his atoning work . . . a work completed in His death, burial and resurrection.

For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man’s gospel. For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.” (Galatians 1:11-12 [ESV](#))

Application: When we share the Gospel, it is good to tell people that the Gospel is from God. Let them know that we ourselves or other men did not make this message up but that this message is SO IMPORTANT to our lives that God Himself delivered it to us.

Affirmation #3: The Gospel Prioritizes Jesus' Death

God is the Gospel. We proclaim the Gospel when we talk about God. So the more we know about God, the more we have to say about the Gospel.

Truth: We do not fish for men if we avoid the cross of Christ in our conversations with others. We know that the cross of Jesus is of first importance to salvation.

"For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (1 Corinthians 1:18 [ESV](#))

Two key reasons the death of Jesus is primary:

Reason #1: The death of Jesus satisfies God's punishment against our sin.

Reason #2: The death of Jesus defeats our enemy's labor to destroy us.

*But he was pierced **for our transgressions**; he was **crushed for our iniquities**; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him **the iniquity of us all**." (Isaiah 53:5-6 [ESV](#))*

And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." (1 Corinthians 2:1-2 [ESV](#))

Definition: Penal Substitutionary Atonement is the covering for sin (atonement) that Jesus made in our place (substitutionary) by suffering the punishment of our sin (penal) for us.

Truth: When Jesus died, he took our sins upon His own body and suffered as our substitute. The punishment that we justly deserved for our rebellion against God is laid upon Jesus. His death is the remedy for our guilt.

Affirmation #4: The Gospel Prioritizes Jesus' Resurrection

Significance #1: The resurrection assures us that Jesus is who He claims to be.

Significance #2: The resurrection assures us that the Father fully accepts His Son's sacrifice.

Truth: God places us in our location for the express purpose of bringing the Gospel through us to people who live around us. This labor is central to who we are as followers of Jesus.