

**KEYS TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH (Lesson #12)  
BECOMING FISHERS OF MEN**

*Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men. Matt. 4: 19 with Luke 5: 1-11*

**WHAT IS GOD'S PLAN FOR MY LIFE?  
"FOLLOW ME..."**

1. To follow Jesus is to **TRACE MY LIFE** after Jesus.

*God decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love Him along the same lines as the life of His Son...We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in Him.* **Romans 8: 29 (Msg)**

2. To follow Jesus is to **TURN AWAY** from all distractions.

*Anyone who lets himself be distracted from the work I plan for him is not fit for the Kingdom of God.* **Luke 9: 62 (LB)**

3. To follow Jesus is to stay **TUNED IN** on Jesus.

*I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward--to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back. So let's keep focused on that goal..* **Philippians 3: 14-15a (Msg)**

**Key Application:** The God I communicate to others is not the God I talk about, but the God whose **LIFE I LIVE OUT.**

**WHAT IS GOD'S PURPOSE FOR MY LIFE?  
"Follow me, and I will make you FISHERS OF MEN."**

1. To be a fisher of men is to **CATCH PEOPLE FOR JESUS.**

*Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men.* **Luke 5: 10b**

- To catch people for Christ begins by **FOCUSING** on the value of lost people.

*Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus...* **Philippians 2: 3-5**

*For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

**Luke 19: 10**

*As Thou didst send Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.*

**John 17:18**

- To catch people for Christ I must FREE MYSELF to go fishing for lost people.

*...who although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant...*

Philippians 2: 6-7

Great Commission : GO & TELL

- To catch people for Christ is building RELATIONSHIPS with lost people and earning their RESPECT in order to gain a receptive hearing of the gospel.

*...being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

Philippians 2: 7b-8

*I have become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some.*

1 Corinthians 9: 22b

A Great example: 1 Thessalonians 2: 3-13

2. What bait do I use to catch people for Jesus?" MY TESTIMONY which is sharing what I possess in Christ & explaining how I received it.

- What my life was like before I met Jesus.
- How I realized my need for Jesus.
- How I received Jesus into my life.
- The difference Jesus has made in my life.

**Key Application:** The devil does not care if my life is filled with EVIL or GOOD things, as long as I stay distracted from doing the work God left me on earth to do.

*But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus--the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.*

Acts 20: 24 (NLT)

**WHAT IS GOD'S PROMISE TO ME?**

*"Follow Me, and I WILL MAKE YOU fishers of men."*

*Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.*

Luke 5: 4

*Put out into the deep water = GO WHERE GOD SENDS ME.*

*Let down your nets = DO WHAT GOD TELLS ME.*

*For a catch = GOD WILL EMPOWER ME.*

**Key Application:** God will empower me to be a fisher of men, not in the absence of WEAKNESS and FEAR, but in the midst of it (1 Corinthians 2: 1-5).