

Fishers of Men

Now it came to pass that a group existed who called themselves fishermen and lo there were many fish in the waters all around. In fact the whole area was surrounded by streams and lakes filled with fish and the fish were hungry. Week after week, month after month year after year those who called themselves fishermen, met in meetings and talked about their call to fish, the abundance of fish, how they might go about fishing. Year after year they carefully defined what fishing means. They defined fishing as an occupation, and declared that fishing was always to be the primary task of fishermen. These fishermen built large beautiful buildings for local fishing headquarters. The plea was that everyone should be a fisherman, and every fishermen should fish. One thing they didn't do, however, they didn't fish. In addition to meeting regularly, they organized a board to send out fishermen to other places where there were many fish. The board was formed by those who had the great vision and courage to speak about fishing, to define fishing, to promote the idea of fishing in far away streams and lakes where many other fish of different colors lived. Also, the board hired staff who appointed committees and held many meetings to define fishing, to defend fishing, and to decide what new streams should be thought about. But the staff and the committee members did not fish. Large elaborate, and expensive training centers were built whose original and primary purpose was to teach fishermen how to fish. Over the years courses were offered on the needs of fish and the nature of fish, how to define fish, the psychological reaction of fish, and how to approach and feed fish. Those who taught had doctorates in Fish-ology but the teachers did not fish, they only taught fishing. Further, the fishermen built large printing houses to publish fishing guides. Presses were kept busy night and day to produce materials solely devoted to fishing methods and equipment and programs to arrange and encourage programs to talk about fishing. A speakers bureau was also provided to schedule special speakers on the subject of fishing. After one stirring meeting on the necessity of fishing, one young fellow left and went fishing. The next day he reported that he had caught 2 outstanding fish. He was honored for his excellent catch

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and scheduled to visit all the big meetings possible to tell how he did it. So he quit his fishing in order to have time to tell about the experience to the other fishermen. He was also placed on the fishermen's general board as a person having considerable experience. Imagine how hurt some were one day when one day a person suggested that those who don't fish were not really fishermen, no matter how much they claimed to be. Yet it did sound correct. Is a person really a fisherman if year after year he never catches a fish? The Master said "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men" . Is one following if one isn't fishing?