

Fish Don't Just Jump in the Boat

By: David Burruss

Anyone who's been fishing knows one thing: fish don't just jump in the boat. You can sit out on the water all day long, but if you never cast a line, you're not catching anything. And even if you do cast, one throw usually isn't enough. You might have to move spots, change your bait, try a different time of day. But you don't give up if you really want to catch something.

Now think about that in terms of evangelism.

Sometimes in the church world, we act like we're just waiting for people to walk in off the street, ask for a Bible, sit down in a pew, and they will surrender their lives to Jesus. We hope someone else will do the outreach, lead the conversation, or share the Gospel. But here's the hard truth. If we want to reach people for Jesus, we have to go out and do it.

Jesus didn't say, "Sit in your churches and wait for the fish to jump in." He said, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). That's an invitation to get moving. It's a call to be active, intentional, and committed.

The early disciples didn't just set up shop and hope for the best. They went. They preached in the streets, they shared from house to house, they spoke with boldness in front of crowds and kings. They cast the net over and over again. Some days were fruitful. Some weren't. But they didn't stop.

Romans 10:14-15 puts it beautifully and powerfully: "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?"

People don't just stumble into salvation. Someone has to tell them. Someone has to go and that someone is us.

We have neighbors, coworkers, classmates, family members, and even total strangers who are spiritually hungry, whether they realize it yet or not. But if we never speak up, never start a conversation, never live our lives in a way that points clearly to Christ, we're leaving the boat empty.

Jesus also said in Luke 10:2, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

That means there's work to be done. There are plenty of "fish" out there. But we need more people who are willing to get out on the water, pick up the rod, and start fishing.

And here's the thing. You might not see results right away. You might share the Gospel and feel like nothing happened. You might invite someone to church and get turned down. You might pray for someone and wonder if it made a difference. But don't stop. Try again tomorrow. Try a different approach. Trust that God is working beneath the surface in ways you can't always see.

Evangelism isn't a one-time effort. It's a lifestyle. It's persistence. It's love in action. And it's worth it.

So let's stop waiting around, hoping someone else will do it. The fish aren't going to jump in the boat. If you want to catch them, you've got to throw the line.

Go, share, love, and trust Jesus to bring the increase.

Let's go fishing.