

The Vine This Month

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HOM Editorial

Matthew 4:19 (ESV) - *And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."* In the NIV it is translated as: *"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."* The New Living Translation states: *Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!"*

If you have read this verse, you will find the constant is "Follow Me" but the rest of the verse have different translations. Either Jesus is going to "make you", "show you" or "send you" to fish for men. Depending on which translation you read, you could be in one of 2 states – waiting for Jesus to make/show you how to fish for men or Jesus has sent you to fish for men.

Many of us think that we are not ready to be fishers of men. Could it be because we do not follow Jesus? If you follow Him, He will show you how and send you out. Can we truly say we are following Jesus and still don't know how to be fishers of men?

I am no fisherman but I guess if you want to catch fish, you have to have the right bait and to go to where the fish are. If you have the bait but choose a spot where there are no fishes, do you expect to catch any? Maybe we are selective of the types of fishes we want to catch. We don't want the small fish.

Like the marriage joke, first the engagement ring, then the wedding ring and then the suffer ring, we tell people that being a Christian we have to give up everything and carry our cross. My colleagues always asked me if to be a Christian they have to give 10% to the church. I always tell them the suffering part, if you don't be a Christian you will go to Hell. Doesn't scare them at all because they believe in reincarnation.

So either you go out to fish and don't have the right bait or you don't go out to fish because you are not trained, the result is no fishes. As someone mentioned to me, "NO" is also an answer to prayer but Rev Philip Huan has a positive answer: *Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.* James 5:16

Martin Cheah