

## IF YOU DON'T FISH, YOU FIGHT

### Matthew 14:14

**Introduction:** What do you think you would have done if it had been you who:

- had just heard about your friend "John" being beheaded?
- had healed and taught all day and was worn out, tired?
- went all the way across a lake to be alone, only to find another crowd of people waiting?

### I. WHY DIDN'T JESUS JUST TELL EVERYONE TO GO AWAY?

1. Jesus had compassion.
  - He felt the limp of the crippled, the hurt of the diseased, the loneliness of the leper, the shame of the sinful.
  - Once Jesus felt what others felt, He couldn't help but tend to them, no matter how He, Himself felt.

### II. WHY DOES GOD BRING HURTING PEOPLE INTO YOUR WORLD?

1. All solitude and self service and NO service back to others equals selfishness.
2. A father took his son and his son's best friend on a camp-out fishing trip. Bad weather came and they were forced to stay inside the camper. They began to get on each other's nerves and soon began to find fault with each other and then to find fault and finally fight among themselves.
3. What happens when Christians don't do what they are called to do?
  - When those who are called to "fish" don't "fish," they fight, fuss, gripe and complain.
  - Energy intended to be used outside "fishing" when used inside (otherwise) explodes into negative, hurtful words and acts among their own.
  - Instead of casting "fishing" lines, stones (words) are cast.
  - Instead of extending helping hands, accusing fingers are pointed.
  - Instead of being "fishers" of the lost, they become critics of those who are "fishing."
  - Instead of helping the hurting, the "helpers, fishers" are hurt.
4. The result within the Church Family:
  - The non-"fishers" become Church scrooges with a "bah humbug" spirituality.
  - Beady eyes searching for warts and moles on others while ignoring them on their very own face.
  - Split Churches, poor testimonies, broken hearts, legalistic wars.
  - The poor go unfed, confused go uncounseled, and the lost go unreached.
  - When those who are called to "fish," don't "fish", they FIGHT.
5. When those who are called to "fish," "FISH," they flourish.
  - When soldiers don't have anything to do, they gripe about everything, beds, food, leadership, etc.
  - Put those same men on the front line, let them dodge a few bullets, those beds become like feather beds, the food like a feast, the leadership is admirable, heroic.
  - When those who are called to "fish," "fish," they flourish.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. Jesus knew that! No one would have blamed Him for sending the people away, but He didn't. Jesus came to "fish" for men and women.
2. Jesus has assigned that same task to the Church. FISH, CATCH THEM, THEN TEACH THEM.
3. Any Church that is not fishing is fighting, looking for another's warts, moles, casting stones, hurting those who are "fishing," pointing accusing fingers, having all kinds of problems.
4. The result is Church scrooges, "bah humbug" attitude, spirituality.
5. Know anybody here that is "fishing?" Know anybody who is "fighting?"