

Jesus invited humble, hardworking fishermen to be his disciples. Today, Jesus continues to invite people with those qualities to be fishers of men. This article will discuss what Bible students who hesitate to accept Jesus' invitation need to do.

EXPRESSION EXPLAINED: The phrase “fishers of men” refers to all those who preach the good news and teach others to become disciples of Christ.

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Paragraph 1

(Matthew 4:18-22) Walking alongside the Sea of Gal'i-lee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. 19 And he said to them: “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” 20 At once they abandoned their nets and followed him. 21 Going on from there, he saw two others who were brothers, James the son of Zeb'e-dee and his brother John. They were in the boat with Zeb'e-dee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. 22 At once they left the boat and their father and followed him.

(Luke 5:10) and the same was true of both James and John, Zeb'e-dee's sons, who were partners with Simon. But Jesus said to Simon: “Stop being afraid. From now on you will be catching men alive.”

(Matthew 28:19, 20) Go, therefore, and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you. And look! I am with you all the days until the conclusion of the system of things.”

Paragraph 2

(John 1:35-42) Again the next day, John was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and as he looked at Jesus walking, he said: “See, the Lamb of God!” 37 When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. 38 Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, he said to them: “What are you looking for?” They said to him: “Rabbi (which means, when translated, “Teacher”), where are you staying?” 39 He said to them: “Come, and you will see.” So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day; it was about the tenth hour. 40 Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard what John said and followed Jesus. 41 He first found his own brother Simon and said to him: “We have found the Mes·si'ah” (which means, when translated, “Christ”), 42 and he led him to Jesus. When Jesus looked at him, he said: “You are Simon, the son of John; you will be called Ce'phas” (which is translated “Peter”).

Paragraph 4

(John 21:3) Simon Peter said to them: “I am going fishing.” They said to him: “We are coming with you.” They went out and got aboard the boat, but during that night they caught nothing.

(John 21:9-15) When they came ashore, they saw there a charcoal fire with fish lying on it and bread. 10 Jesus said to them: “Bring some of the fish you just now caught.” 11 So Simon Peter went on board and hauled the net ashore full of big fish, 153 of them. And though there were so many, the net did not burst. 12 Jesus said to them: “Come, have your breakfast.” Not one of the disciples had the courage to ask him: “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and the same with the fish. 14 This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after being raised up from the dead. 15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said

to Simon Peter: “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He replied to him: “Yes, Lord, you know I have affection for you.” He said to him: “Feed my lambs.”

(Acts 2:14) But Peter stood up with the Eleven and spoke to them in a loud voice: “Men of Ju·de’a and all you inhabitants of Jerusalem, let this be known to you and listen carefully to my words.

(Acts 2:41) So those who gladly accepted his word were baptized, and on that day about 3,000 people were added.

Paragraph 5

(Luke 5:8-11) Seeing this, Simon Peter fell down at the knees of Jesus, saying: “Depart from me, Lord, because I am a sinful man.” 9 For both he and those with him were overwhelmed with astonishment at the catch of fish they had taken, 10 and the same was true of both James and John, Zeb'e-dee's sons, who were partners with Simon. But Jesus said to Simon: “Stop being afraid. From now on you will be catching men alive.” 11 So they brought the boats back to land and abandoned everything and followed him.

(Matthew 22:37) He said to him: “‘You must love Jehovah your God with your whole heart and with your whole soul and with your whole mind.’

(Matthew 22:39) The second, like it, is this: ‘You must love your neighbor as yourself.’

(John 14:15) “If you love me, you will observe my commandments.

Paragraph 6

(Matthew 28:19, 20) Go, therefore, and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son

and of the holy spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you. And look! I am with you all the days until the conclusion of the system of things.”

(Matthew 9:36) On seeing the crowds, he felt pity for them, because they were skinned and thrown about like sheep without a shepherd.

(1 Timothy 2:4) whose will is that all sorts of people should be saved and come to an accurate knowledge of truth.

Paragraph 7

(Romans 10:13-15) For “everyone who calls on the name of Jehovah will be saved.” 14 However, how will they call on him if they have not put faith in him? How, in turn, will they put faith in him about whom they have not heard? How, in turn, will they hear without someone to preach? 15 How, in turn, will they preach unless they have been sent out? Just as it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who declare good news of good things!”

(1 Timothy 4:16) Pay constant attention to yourself and to your teaching. Persevere in these things, for by doing this you will save both yourself and those who listen to you.

Paragraph 8

(Leviticus 11:9-12) “This is what you may eat of everything in the waters: Anything in the waters that has fins and scales, whether in the seas or in the rivers, it you may eat. 10 But anything in the seas and in the rivers that has no fins and scales, among all the swarming creatures and of every other living creature that is in the waters, it is a loathsome thing for you. 11 Yes, they should be loathsome to you, and you must not eat any of their flesh and you must loathe their carcasses. 12 Everything in the waters that has no fins and scales is a loathsome thing to you.

Paragraph 9

(Acts 5:42) And every day in the temple and from house to house they continued without letup teaching and declaring the good news about the Christ, Jesus.

(Acts 17:17) So he began to reason in the synagogue with the Jews and the other people who worshipped God and every day in the marketplace with those who happened to be on hand.

(Acts 18:4) He would give a talk in the synagogue every sabbath and would persuade Jews and Greeks.

(1 Corinthians 9:19-23) For though I am free from all people, I have made myself the slave to all, so that I may gain as many people as possible. 20 To the Jews I became as a Jew in order to gain Jews; to those under law I became as under law, though I myself am not under law, in order to gain those under law. 21 To those without law I became as without law, although I am not without law toward God but under law toward Christ, in order to gain those without law. 22 To the weak I became weak, in order to gain the weak. I have become all things to people of all sorts, so that I might by all possible means save some. 23 But I do all things for the sake of the good news, in order to share it with others.

Paragraph 10

(Matthew 10:5-7) These 12 Jesus sent out, giving them these instructions: "Do not go off into the road of the nations, and do not enter any Sa-mar'i-tan city; 6 but instead, go continually to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 As you go, preach, saying: 'The Kingdom of the heavens has drawn near.'

(Luke 10:1-11) After these things the Lord designated 70 others and sent them out by twos ahead of him into every city and place where he

himself was to go. 2 Then he said to them: "Yes, the harvest is great, but the workers are few. Therefore, beg the Master of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest. 3 Go! Look! I am sending you out as lambs in among wolves. 4 Do not carry a money bag or a food pouch or sandals, and do not greet anyone along the road. 5 Wherever you enter into a house, say first: 'May this house have peace.' 6 And if a friend of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if there is not, it will return to you. 7 So stay in that house, eating and drinking the things they provide, for the worker is worthy of his wages. Do not keep transferring from house to house. 8 "Also, wherever you enter into a city and they receive you, eat what is set before you 9 and cure the sick ones in it and tell them: 'The Kingdom of God has come near to you.' 10 But wherever you enter into a city and they do not receive you, go out into its main streets and say: 11 'We wipe off against you even the dust that sticks to our feet from your city. Nevertheless, know this, that the Kingdom of God has come near.'

(2 Timothy 2:15) Do your utmost to present yourself approved to God, a workman with nothing to be ashamed of, handling the word of the truth aright.

Paragraph 11

(Matthew 10:16) "Look! I am sending you out as sheep among wolves; so prove yourselves cautious as serpents and yet innocent as doves.

Paragraph 12

(John 16:33) I have said these things to you so that by means of me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but take courage! I have conquered the world."

(Revelation 14:14-16) Then I saw, and look! a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was someone like a son of man, with a golden crown

on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. 15 Another angel emerged from the temple sanctuary, calling with a loud voice to the one seated on the cloud: “Put your sickle in and reap, because the hour has come to reap, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe.” 16 And the one seated on the cloud thrust his sickle into the earth, and the earth was reaped.

(Matthew 6:32-34) For all these are the things the nations are eagerly pursuing. Your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 “Keep on, then, seeking first the Kingdom and his righteousness, and all these other things will be added to you. 34 So never be anxious about the next day, for the next day will have its own anxieties. Each day has enough of its own troubles.

(Joshua 1:7-9) “Only be courageous and very strong, and observe carefully the entire Law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not deviate from it either to the right or to the left, so that you may act wisely wherever you go. 8 This book of the Law should not depart from your mouth, and you must read it in an undertone day and night, in order to observe carefully all that is written in it; for then your way will be successful and then you will act wisely. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be courageous and strong. Do not be struck with terror or fear, for Jehovah your God is with you wherever you go.”

Paragraph 13

(Acts 4:29) And now, Jehovah, give attention to their threats, and grant to your slaves to keep speaking your word with all boldness,

(Acts 4:31) And when they had made supplication, the place where they were gathered together was shaken, and they were one and all filled with the holy spirit and were speaking the word of God with boldness.

(Exodus 14:13) Then Moses said to the people: “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and see the salvation of Jehovah that he will perform for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you will never ever see again.

(Psalm 118:6) Jehovah is on my side; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?

Paragraph 15

(Matthew 10:22) And you will be hated by all people on account of my name, but the one who has endured to the end will be saved.

Paragraph 16

(Galatians 5:22, 23) On the other hand, the fruitage of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, 23 mildness, self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Paragraph 17

(1 Corinthians 9:25-27) Now everyone competing in a contest exercises self-control in all things. Of course, they do it to receive a crown that can perish, but we, one that does not perish. 26 Therefore, the way I am running is not aimlessly; the way I am aiming my blows is so as not to be striking the air; 27 but I pummel my body and lead it as a slave, so that after I have preached to others, I myself should not become disapproved somehow.

(1 Corinthians 14:40) But let all things take place decently and by arrangement.

(Acts 2:46) And day after day they were in constant attendance in the temple with a united purpose, and they took their meals in different homes and shared their food with great rejoicing and sincerity of heart,

Paragraph 18

(Luke 8:11-15) Now the illustration means this: The seed is the word of God. 12 Those alongside the road are the ones who have heard, and then the Devil comes and takes the word away from their hearts so that they may not believe and be saved. 13 Those on the rock are the ones who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy, but these have no root. They believe for a while, but in a season of testing, they fall away. 14 As for that which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, but by being carried away by anxieties, riches, and pleasures of this life, they are completely choked and bring nothing to maturity. 15 As for that on the fine soil, these are the ones who, after hearing the word with a fine and good heart, retain it and bear fruit with endurance.

(Mark 13:10) Also, in all the nations, the good news has to be preached first.

(Acts 5:28, 29) and said: “We strictly ordered you not to keep teaching on the basis of this name, and yet look! you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you are determined to bring the blood of this man upon us.” 29 In answer Peter and the other apostles said: “We must obey God as ruler rather than men.

Paragraph 19

(Ecclesiastes 11:4) The one who watches the wind will not sow seed, and the one who looks at the clouds will not reap.

Paragraph 20

(Nehemiah 8:10) He said to them: “Go, eat the choice things and drink what is sweet, and send portions of food to those who have nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord, and do not feel sad, for the joy of Jehovah is your stronghold.”