



Who Will Go and Fish Today?

(It is more fun if you use your own names in the sketch below.)

ANN: Hey, Ruth, it's a beautiful morning here at the lake! What do you say; let's go fishing!

RUTH: Well, maybe....

ANN: Do you have a fishing pole?

RUTH: How about this one that's been gathering cobwebs in the garage? I don't have much else for a fishing outing. *(She lifts up an old fishing pole.)*

ANN: No problem! I've brought along some things this morning that you can borrow. Now here's a nice sun hat and it even has a mosquito net you can let down if the bugs are bad! *(Ann puts a large sun hat on Ruth's head with an attached veil or piece of old curtain which she pulls down over her face.)*

RUTH: Well, it might kind of blind me when I'm trying to load my hook. *(She sputters and throws up the netting.)* By the way, I don't have any bait or worms to put on this pole!

ANN: Don't you fret! I just happen to have a few worms in my satchel. *(She pulls out a plastic container of candy gummy worms.)* The nice thing about these worms is that if you get hungry you can simply eat your bait!

RUTH: Yummy—I'm sure! What else do you have in there?

ANN: Here's an absolute essential – a bottle of water! You sure don't want to drink water out of that pond *(She pulls each of these items out of her satchel as she speaks.)* Here are some other goodies: insect repellent! The bugs have really been bad this year and do they ever bite! And here's some sun screen! You'll need some hand sanitizer after you handle those slimy fish! Oh, and this would come in handy—it's a pizza cutter; in case you want to cut off their heads and start cleaning the fish right there on the bank! *(She addresses the audience next.)* How about it folks, can you think of anything else Ruth would need for a fishing expedition at the lake? *(After waiting for responses Ann will proudly display a fishing license.)* One absolute essential is a LICENSE!

RUTH: Well, how do I get one of those?

ANN: You can get one at _____! *(Name the actual place where you would go*

in your hometown to get a license.) An adult fishing license is only \$29.50! (Or the price in your hometown.) Well, you'd better not go fishing without a license. I'll just run down there right now and get you a license. It's just too beautiful of a morning to not go fishing! (She exits.)

RUTH: I don't know what has gotten into Ann! She's gone overboard about this fishing thing! *(Takes off the hat.)* I DON'T WANT to go fishing! I DON'T even LIKE to fish! I don't even like to EAT fish! *(Jean enters.)*

JEAN: Good morning, Ruth! May I interest you in a far more satisfying kind of fishing expedition? How would you like to go fishing for men?

RUTH: What? Go fishing for MEN? *(Then it dawns on her.)* Oh, are you referring to the Bible when Jesus calls the disciples?

JEAN: Yes! We are told about it in Matthew 4:18-22. Let me read it to you: *While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.*

RUTH: That was nice for them, but I don't know if I'm prepared to go "man" fishing! Wouldn't I need a license?

JEAN: Ah, yes, but the license is free. It was given to us by Jesus after the Resurrection and before He ascended into heaven. In Matthew 28:19 He said, *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ..."*

RUTH: Yes, but He was speaking to the disciples, not to me!

JEAN: That's what is so wonderful! Jesus didn't reserve this Great Commission for just His Twelve Disciples. He extended it to His entire Church!

RUTH: But I can't go fishing for men. What would I wear? What would I take with me as fishing gear?

JEAN: Oh, don't worry about that! Jesus wants us to travel lightly...to not be hindered by all the "trappings" of life. When He sent out the Twelve, *He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff — no bread, no bag, no money in their belts — but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics (Mark 6:8-9).*

RUTH: My goodness! Surely I should take something to eat—some crackers or something!

JEAN: I think He wants us to depend on Him to supply all our needs so that we can concentrate on the task set before us and not get waylaid.

RUTH: And clothes, I'll need something that is suitable for catching fish. I haven't a thing to wear!

JEAN: Well, actually there is an outfit that would be perfect...it's a suit of armor.

RUTH: Armor! Wouldn't I sink into the brink?

JEAN: It's a spiritual kind of armor. St. Paul describes it in Ephesians 6:14-18a, *Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.*

RUTH: Well, I'm a Christian and so I guess I am already clothed in that kind of armor. But what would I say?

JEAN: That, my friend, is found in Luke 21:14-15a, *"Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, for I will give you a mouth and wisdom..."*

RUTH: I still have my doubts. I just don't know if I'm cut out to be a fisher person. I say, let the pastor do that kind of thing. He's much better at it than I am.

JEAN: Listen to Jesus in John 14:12, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father."* You know, Ruth, He says "even greater things" because He is sending us the help of the Holy Spirit. Only the Spirit can effect changes in the hearts of men.

RUTH: Oh, my! It just wears me out thinking about it: going into the whole world, fishing day and night. We will get so tired!

JEAN: Jesus knows that we are human and we can get weary and discouraged. That's why He said: *"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"* (Matthew 11:28).

RUTH: You have almost persuaded me, but it sounds so serious. Will we have any fun?

JEAN: Oh, yes, we are called to rejoice in Him and to be happy in Him. With Jesus as our companion, it is always a joyful expedition.

RUTH: This sounds like better fishing than what Ann is offering. Let's go fishing!

JEAN: And now we ask all of you fellow fishermen to join with us in a litany of praise.
(*She divides the group into two sides. She leads Side One and Ruth leads Side Two.*)

THE FISHERMAN LITANY

Side One: Lord Jesus, empower us to be excellent fishers of men.

Side Two: We praise You for being “the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”

Side One: We rejoice that You have called us into Your most sacred work as fishers of men.

Side Two: We have faith, Lord. Show us where to let down our nets!

Side One: We have faith, Lord, and we’re grateful that Your Spirit used fellow believers to draw us to You.

Side Two: We have been blessed beyond all knowing and gladly obey your Commission.

Side One: We have faith, Lord. Let us not grow weary in well-doing. Refresh us!

Side Two: Empower us by Your Holy Spirit to be excellent fishers of men. Lord, rescue us all from the murky waters of sin.

Side One: Thank You for bringing us up from the depths to where the sunlight sparkles on the waves where salvation reigns!

Side Two: As You have fed our hungry souls, feed their hungry souls and they will taste and see that the Lord is good. They will be hooked forever.

Side One: Forever safe in the arms of Jesus, Hallelujah!

All sides: We praise Him! We adore Him! Let’s go fishing!

Scripture references are from the ESV.

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