

Go Fish  
Pastor Justin Beadles  
Mark 1:14-20

In the New Year, we pray for God to transform us, to make us something else.

In Mark 1:14-20, Jesus talks about the importance of fishing. He wants to build fisherman who fish for men.

The message of John the Baptist was to repent and believe the Good News. Usually God conditions His response upon the actions of His people. "If you repent, then will I \_\_\_\_." In this passage, Jesus preaches that the Kingdom of God is near. God's followers need to align their hearts with the Kingdom so that they don't miss it.

Jesus' goal is for us to follow Him and to do in the lives of others what somebody has already done in our own.

To follow means to fish for men. In the midst of following Christ, Jesus transformed His disciples.

Andy Stanley, in his series "Go Fish," recommends that we write a letter to the person(s) who influenced us to come to Jesus-the "fish" who became "fisherman."

The man who touched my life was named Chris Wall. Here was my letter to him.  
Dear Chris (Wall),

Our paths first crossed in the summer of 1991. You were a city kid on a tennis scholarship. I was a country boy who had just flunked out of college. When my parents urged me to meet you, I figured you would be like me. Like me, you could talk about religious things, Like me, your desire for the approval of others trumped everything else in your life. Like me, you would have been pursuing a life faking it. We met-and sure enough, you seemed just like me. You loved to laugh, try new things and take risks. I can still see you wide-eyed and bear-hugging the neck of the horse as I taught you to ride without a saddle. I can still hear you scream like a little girl as I threatened to throw a snake in your car. And I can still smell the aroma of your first cattle-branding experience. I remember once spending the night in your dorm room and waking early in the morning to see you reading your Bible. I pretended to sleep. I remember you telling me that you prayed for me and then hearing you do it. I pretended not to listen. I remember you not flinching when I told you of all my stupid decisions. I pretended that didn't affect me. I just wanted you to know that I wasn't sleeping. I was listening. And it did affect me. I guess it turns out you weren't like me at all. Yours was a life that had been changed by a genuine relationship with Jesus. And you simply shared it with me. Thank you. You were a fish once. And when you followed Christ, you fished for me.

Sincerely,

Justin