**Who are we called to fish? (Various Scripture Passages)**

**Part 1: “Nones”**

**May 7, 2023**

**Matthew 28:18-20**

If you are Jesus’ disciple, then you are sent to go and make more disciples. This is our primary purpose.

**Mark 1:16-18**

We are to go out and fish for men and women in our neighborhoods, communities and in our lives, sharing the good news of Jesus and inviting them to come and follow, just as Jesus’ invited Simon and Andrew to follow.

Unfortunately, the church (global church) has emphasized coming to a building *as the way to fish* instead of teaching people how to fish.

One of the church’s primary roles is to help provide you with the right tools and resources and equipment to help you go out and catch fish.

Who are we to fish for? Our primary purpose is to fish for those who do not know Jesus. (**Romans 10:14-15**) The Nones and the Dones.

Nones are the fast-growing group in our American culture. Nones are those who believe in nothing in particular, they embrace spirituality but not one religious perspective in particular

* 3 out of every 10 Americans considers themselves a None.
* While it is the younger generations where this movement is growing exponentially, it is impacting all generations.
* There is no clear relationship between higher education and being more religiously unaffiliated.
* Nones impact all nations and ethnicities but the largest increase is found in white Americans.
* Both genders are impacted but there is a higher percentage of males who identify as Nones.
* While there is a slight leaning towards a more progressive position, it is not very conclusive. Nones are fairly moderate in their political views.

We need to change our assumptions that the Nones are only one set of people with certain ideas, ages, and perspectives. These are people we know, that we rub shoulders with each and every day.

**How do we reach nones?**

* First, we recognize that this is our calling.
* Next, we move out of the “Cabelas”
* Listen for spiritual connections
  + **1 Corinthians 9:19-23** (Paul adapts to each group, listening for spiritual connections to find a common starting point to share the good news of Jesus)
  + We wrongly assume Nones are anti-spiritual, but that isn’t the case.
  + While nearly 3 in 10 Americans no longer affiliate with religion, only 1 in 10 Americans doesn’t believe God exists!
    - As we begin to build deep meaningful relationships, we have opportunities to engage and share in stories, to integrate our faith with Nones in areas where they already see spiritual connections.
  + Too many people have compartmentalized their faith and aren’t able to see God at work in their everyday ordinary lives.
    - We begin to ask questions daily such as “How have you seen God at work in our lives,” to build up our own “muscles” to just be able to talk naturally about God and our faith!
* Remember the Holy Spirit is at work
  + We don’t build relationships as a part of a strategy for “fishing.” We simply are fully present, enjoying the people God has placed in our lives.
* Finally, we invite people into small group communities
  + **Hebrews 10:24-25** (Small groups are places where people can be authentic, vulnerable and build trust)