

BONUS

Thomas Boston's book "The Art of Man-Fishing" was written in 1699 when he was only 22 years old. However, it was not published until decades after his death. Since its publication it has "been constantly hailed by evangelicals as a masterpiece on ministry."

This book can help us think through some aspects of evangelism

While Boston clearly sees the task of evangelism as belonging primarily to ministers by the call of God upon them to a specific office of preaching the gospel, the things that he mentions can be helpful to think about for all saints as they share Christ with others

Luke 5:1-11

_____ **in fishing-**Fishing is not just about skill

_____ **is necessary because salvation belongs to the Lord-**

"He it is that brings sinners into the net which ministers spread; and if he be not with them to drive the fish into the net, they may toil all the night, and day too, and catch nothing."

"O my soul, then see that gifts will not do the business. A man may preach as an angel, and yet be useless... Acknowledge thine own weakness and uselessness without it, and so cry incessantly for it, that the Lord may drive the fish into the net, when thou art spreading it out."

Do not be _____ of your abilities or gifts because those alone will save no one. Do not be _____ by your lack of abilities or gifts because it is the Lord who saves. It is the Lord who blesses and in His providence He sometimes chooses to bless those of inferior gifting more than those of more advanced gifting.

"Yea, has thou not observed how God owned a man very weak in gifts and made him more successful than others that were far beyond him in parts?"

_____ **in fishing-**You don't often catch fish immediately

Salvation often takes _____

Fish are not all easily caught. Some fish are very _____-they may swim up to the net, touch it, then quick swim away. So too, some people are not "won" the first casting out of the gospel, but they may retreat back away from it after initial contact with it.

"As fish sometimes come near and touch the net, and yet draw back; so many souls are somewhat affected at the hearing of the gospel, and yet remain in the fall of bitterness and bond of iniquity."

Some fish appear to be caught then _____. So too, some seem to be true Christians but fall away. Just because a fish escaped the net does not mean that it cannot be caught again for good.

Fish fight when being caught. So too, we should expect a _____ in the souls of those that the Lord is bringing into His net.

“Everyone whom the Lord deals with by His Word and Spirit, make some kind of resistance before they are thoroughly caught.”

_____ **in fishing**-Our nets must be checked, and we must make sure they are sound

Salvation requires the _____ of right _____

A net filled with holes will be very ineffective. Nets must be constantly _____ so that they can be properly used. So too, we must be growing in our understanding of God’s law and His gospel so that the net we throw out will be a net that the Lord can use to gather fish.

“Thou seest then that both law and gospel are to be preached...the law being a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ.”

_____ **in fishing**-We should fish in the right places

_____ **should the gospel be shared?**

“There are two pools wherein the net should be set; in the public assemblies of the Lord’s people...The second place to set a net is in private conference.”

“Fishers may toil long, and yet catch nothing; but they do not therefore lay aside their work...Hold on, O my soul, and give not way to these discouragements. Thou knowest not but Christ may come and teach thee to let down the net at the right side of the ship, and thou mayest yet be a fisher of men. Trust God, thou shalt yet praise Him for the help of His countenance as thou hast done, and perhaps for some soul that thou mayst be yet honored to catch.”