

“Go Fish: The One That Got Away”

2 Kings 7:3-9

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Now it may seem odd that in our “Go Fish” sermon series that this passage had nothing to do with fishing, boats, or even water. And yet I hope you will get the connection by the end with the phrase “the one that got away!”

Now a question of honesty with those that are here today that are true fisher men...that is fisher of fish. If you have ever had one get away...raise your hand. Xxxxx

Oh, you see if off the side of the boat...you get ready and then...oops it becomes the one that got away. You have it up at the edge of the boat it's a big one and you get ready to pull it over the side of the boat and...oops it is the one that got away. Oh, you actually have it in the boat. You hold it so you can get a picture of this gigantic fish you caught, when all of a sudden it squirms wiggles and...there it goes...it becomes the one that got away.

When that one gets away we can have several reactions. Disappointed. Discouraged. Or---determination. I'm a going to get that one that got away. So, you get ready and put that line back in the water to get that one that got away.

It seems like we like to talk about the one that got away. In our scripture, which is not a well-known passage, talks about those that might be forgotten. Those that could easily get away.

A key verse is 9 that says, “This is a day of good news and we aren't sharing it with anyone.” I want to say that we have good news to share and that others need to hear.

For the last 15 years our Student Ministries has led a trip to Belize (**image**). They have developed relationships with the people there sharing the good news. One who heard the Good News in Belize and has told others has come the visit us here for about the past 5 years. His name is Nick Che. This is a day of Good News and Nick wants to share it with everyone. Nick xxxxxxxx

(Nick Che's testimony)

The Good News was shared with Nick and Nick shared that Good News with others.

Now in this story in 2 Kings we have the story of sharing of good news. 4 men with leprosy are sitting at the front gate waiting to die. They have a dilemma.

4 “We will starve if we stay here, but with the famine in the city, we will starve if we go back there. So we might as well go out and surrender to the Aramean army. If they let us live, so much the better. But if they kill us, we would have died anyway.”

What great options. They can stay here---and starve. They can go back---and starve. Or go out and surrender. (and either live or get killed.) Wow---great choices!!!!

They make the decision to go out to the camp of the Arameans. But the Lord had caused the Arameans army to hear speeding chariots and galloping horses and sounds of a great army approaching. The Armenians were probably shouting... “Run for your lives!!!”

The 4 lepers not knowing this arrive at the Aramean camp to surrender. The camp is evacuated. The lepers live---and not only that get everything that is in the camp.

⁸ When the men with leprosy arrived at the edge of the camp, they went into one tent after another, eating and drinking wine; and they carried off silver and gold and clothing and hid it.

They were having a good ‘ol time. They went from tent to tent. Eating, drinking and eating and drinking. Then they carried off silver and gold and clothing.

Now notice how verse 9 begins: **⁹ Finally, they said to each other, “This is not right. This is a day of good news, and we aren’t sharing it with anyone! If we wait until morning, some calamity will certainly fall upon us. Come on, let’s go back and tell the people at the palace.”**

I wonder how long “finally” was. Finally, after they got done going through each tent. Finally, after they had drunk all the wine. Wow---not a happy hour, but happy hours. Finally, after they carried off armloads of silver. Finally, after they carried off armloads of gold. Finally, after they took the clothing. Finally, when they were exhausted from all this good news.

Finally, hold it...they said to each other, “This is not right. This is a day of good news, and we aren’t sharing it with anyone. Imagine all this good news and keeping it to themselves. I said, imagine having good news and keeping it to themselves.

With this great discovery of all of these riches---food, drink, clothes, silver and gold, comes great responsibility. They could keep to themselves or let others know. Oh, to keep it to themselves is not right for this is a day of good news. A day of good news and they aren’t sharing it with anyone.

Don’t forget the ones that were left behind. “Come on, let’s go back and tell the people we left back at the palace.”

Evangelist D.T. Niles said this, **(image) “Evangelism is just one beggar telling another beggar where to find the bread.”**

A great responsibility to the great discovery. We can’t keep it to ourselves.

How has the Good News you received made a difference with what you do with your time. Do you take time sharing the Good News? How has the Good News you received affect how and who you serve? How has the Good News made a difference with your budget? Does your bank account reflect that you share the good news through ministries and missions?

It's not right if we don't share and tell others!

Think of someone that you know, that you have some type of relationship with that does not know Jesus as Lord and Savior. Write the first name, first name only down on your bulletin.

Now we need to be in prayer for these people. Prayers that God will allow you and give you the courage to share the Good News of Jesus with them. So here is what I would like for you to do. After the service in the lobby you will find a table with post-it notes on it. You will find the board we used for the Say Yes campaign. Write first name only on that post-it note and put it on that prayer wall. We are going to be praying for you and for these names. The Wednesday morning prayer group at 7:30 that Rev. Cathy leads will pray for them. I am going to ask our Thursday night men's prayer group to pray for them. Staff will be praying for them. We may even leave them up so you can stop by...and lift up some prayers that we will not forget the ones that got away.

Now some may be wondering how you go about telling the Good News of Jesus to others. Uh, well, tell them to read the Bible. Uh tell them to take a theology class. Uh, tell them to give Pastor Dave or Rev. Cathy a call.

Let me paraphrase the scripture from this morning, "Come on let US go back and tell the people." Who...US.

How do we tell others the Good News? You may be thinking, I don't know the Bible. I don't know all the Christian terminology. Why, I didn't even know where to find the book of 2 Kings in the Bible this morning.

Here are 3 things I think people want to hear from you about the Good News.

How to Tell the Good News of Jesus

Tell them:

- 1. Who you were before Jesus.**
- 2. How you came to know Jesus.**
- 3. What difference Jesus makes in your life now.**

(personal example of my life in all 3 areas)

People at this point and stage do not care to hear Bible verses thrown at them. They don't want Christian phrases (I call Christianese) shared with them. They don't want Jesus crammed down their throat. People want to be loved. People want a place to belong. People want to know about you.

It's not right for me not to share this good news. You can do it---even when one gets away. Return as God leads and continue to "Go Fish."