



The Weekly Jog

Volume 2, Issue 16 Jog: to nudge, to give a reminder, *jog* the memory

16th April 2008

“The New Plymouth Church Family Experiencing and Sharing the Transforming Power of Jesus.”

To Fish Or Not To Fish, That Is The Question

Matt 4:19 "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men"

Now it came to pass that a group existed that called themselves fishermen and there were many fish in the waters about them. In fact, the whole area was surrounded by streams and lakes and the fish were hungry. Week after week and month after month and year after year the group that called themselves "fishermen" met in meetings and talked about those called to fish, the abundance of fish, and how we might go about fishing. Year after year they carefully defined what fishing meant, defending fishing as an occupation, and declared that fishing be the primary talk of fisherman. These fisherman built large beautiful buildings for local fishing headquarters and their plea was that everyone should be a fisherman and that everyone should fish. However, the one thing they did not do, they did not fish!

In addition to meeting regularly these men determined to send out fishermen to places where there were many fish. This sending committee was headed by those who had great vision and had courage to speak about fishing and to promote the idea of fishing in far away streams and lakes, held meetings to define fishing, to defend fishing, and to decide what new streams should be thought about. But the one thing the staff and the committee members did not do, they did not fish!

Large, elaborate training centres were built whose original and primary purpose was to teach fisherman how to fish. Over the years, courses were offered on the needs of the fish, the nature of the fish, how to find fish, and the psychological effects of fishing. Those who taught had doctorates in 'Fisheology'! But the teachers did not fish! They only taught about fishing.

Further, the fishermen built large printing houses to publish fishing guides. Presses were kept busy day and night to produce material solely devoted to fishing methods. A speaker's bureau was also organized to schedule special speakers on fishing. After one stirring meeting entitled 'The Necessity Of Fishing', two young men left the meeting and actually went fishing and one of them actually caught two fish! He was honoured for his great catch and was scheduled to appear at all the big meetings to tell how he did it. So he quit fishing in order

to have time to tell his experiences to the other fishermen!

Now it is true that many fishermen sacrificed and put up with all kinds of difficulties. Some lived near the water and had to put up with the smell of dead fish. Some had to endure the ridicule of some who made fun of these fishermen's because they claimed to be fisherman but they did not fish, they wondered about those who thought it was of little use to attend meetings and talk about fishing. I mean, after all, were they not following the Master who said, "Come and I will make you fishers of men"? Imagine their chagrin when someone actually suggested that they were not really 'fishermen'. Yet it did make sense. Can we rightfully call a person a fisherman if year after year he never catches a fish?

Can A Person Really Be Following Jesus
If He Is Not Fishing?

Upcoming events:

- 1- Evidences Camp: 9th-23rd. Foxton.
- 2- Seminar: 27th-30th April. 7pm nightly at the building. 24th -27th. Brad Harrub.
- 3- 27th -30th Dewayne Bryant.

This is a time that we can invite friends and contacts to hear two great speakers discussing issues that affect us in 2008.

Reminder:

- 1- Jerry is home in Maidevale rest home Please keep him in your prayers. Ph 755-0558.
- 2- Pamphlets for handing out in foyer on Wednesday for seminar.
- 3- Prayers needed for those studying the word of God at this time.
- 4- FHU students coming in May June 08. 6 students will be with us to help in the work here in New Plymouth.

Allan.



Dogs and Bones

Teresa Hampton

My grandmother had many tidbits of wisdom, like, "A dog that will bring a bone, will take one back." It was a caution about how to handle those who bring you a bone of gossip, slander, or backbiting, and her way of saying they are not to be trusted. You see, the one who brings a bone doesn't stop to ask if it is true. And even if it is true, the one who brings a bone doesn't think twice about the damage that can be done with the telling and how quickly a good name can be marred or destroyed. The one who brings a bone makes you feel like you're receiving privileged information. The one who brings a bone also has the notion they're doing the church or the world a favor by disclosing the knowledge or rumour. And before long, the rumour, many times or false, has been told so much, it appears to be true. One simply cannot go back and retrieve the words or repair the damage. James wrote about the importance of our words (3:6-8). He used some rather dramatic word pictures to describe the tongue: a fire, a world of iniquity, it defiles the whole body, it sets on fire the course of nature, it is set on fire by hell (literally, it comes from hell), it is untameable, and it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

David said one who will dwell with the Lord is *"he who does not backbite with his tongue"* and *"whoever secretly slanders his neighbour, him I will destroy"* (Psalm 15:3, 101:5). Solomon must have learned well from his father. He said, *"Whoever spreads slander is a fool"* (10:18b). And one must wonder if Paul was thinking of dogs when he warned, *"if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another"* (Galatians 5:15).

Our tongues can utter kind words, sweetened by the living water we freely drink, or our words can be full of rottenness. We can *choose* to speak promoting goodness, or we can listen and retell things that help Satan do his evil work. The next time a dog brings you a bone of gossip, slander or backbiting, recall what God's word says about such. And remember, a dog that will bring a bone, will take one back, and that kind of dog can just as easily take back a bone that involves you!

Today's Verse: *"A talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter."* Proverbs 11:13

Today's Challenge: The next time a dog brings you a bone ask these questions:

1. Is it true?
2. Is the listening or retelling going to harm another?
3. Would I say this in the presence of the one I'm talking about?
4. Would I listen to or say this if Jesus was in my presence? (hint: He is always with us)

Allan's Psalm Journal.

Read Psalms four and make notations in side margin of your Bible.

David asks God to vindicate him from those who accuse and finds comfort in the fact that God will keep him as he lies down to sleep. In verse 7 there is a contrast between inward joy and outward joy. David prays, reproves the wicked, and testifies the happiness of the righteous, ver. 1 - 3. Exhorts them to consider and serve God, ver. 4 - 5. Declares his own experience of the grace of God, ver. 6 - 8. To the chief musician on Neginoth, A psalm of David.

Title of the psalm. Chief musician - The director of the music of the temple. Neginoth - Or, on stringed instruments, as this word is translated, *Hab 3:19*.