

Esther and Emmett – Gone Fishing!

Emmett: Hi Esther, do you have any plans for next summer?

Esther: Hi Emmett. Do I have plans for next summer...not really. We probably still won't be able to travel by then.

Emmett: But we could go fishing.

Esther: Fishing!!!

Emmett: Fishing! Time spent outdoors, by the water...you don't happen to own a boat, do you?

Esther: No I don't own a boat.

Emmett: How about a net?

Esther: A fishing net?

Emmett: Yeah, a fishing net. As I understand it, we need to have a net to cast into the water.

Esther: Have you ever been fishing, Emmett?

Emmett: No, but I have read about it.

Esther: You have a book about fishing?

Emmett: No, I read about it in the Bible. Jesus says we should go fishing...although I'm not sure how you use a boat and a net if you're not fishing for fish!

Esther: Let me guess...you've been reading the story about Jesus inviting Andrew and Simon and James and John to follow him.

Emmett: Wow, you sure know your Bible stories, Esther. Yeah, they were all fishing – they had boats and they were casting nets into the sea - say, if you had a couple of thousand people fishing at the same time, and they all cast their nets at the same time, do you think that would be a cast of thousands!!

Esther: Very funny! Yes, I know the story. Jesus invited Simon and the others to help him fish...for people!!!

Emmett: Come with me and fish for people...that's what he said...yep, that's what he said...fish for people...how do you do that? FISH FOR PEOPLE! How do you do that?

Esther: Well, you don't need a boat or a net to do it.

Emmett: No...that's good, since neither of owns a boat.

Esther: I think that when Jesus said "we will FISH for people" he didn't literally mean that they would FISH for people.

Emmett: Then why didn't he just say whatever it was he meant?

Esther: It was an idiom!

Emmett: Whose an idiot?

Esther: Not an idiot...an idiom. It's a form of speech in which we say something that is not to be taken literally but means something else.

Emmett: That sounds complicated!

Esther: It's like when the captain of a ship says "All hands on deck". That doesn't mean all the sailors should bend over and place their hands on the deck. It means they should all gather on the deck.

Emmett: Right...it'd be kind of silly for them to all put their hands on the deck.

Esther: Or when you say someone has a chip on their shoulder. It doesn't mean there's a potato chip on their shoulder. It means that they are upset about something.

Emmett: I get it. So when Jesus said, "Let's fish for people" he didn't mean they would actually go out in a boat and catch some people, he meant...well, he probably meant something else, right?

Esther: Right. What did Simon and the others spend most of their time doing?

Emmett: Well, this is just guess...did they spend their time fishing?

Esther: Yes. They spent their time fishing...for fish. Now Jesus says that they will spend their time doing something else...they will fish for people.

Emmett: How would they do that?

Esther: They would go with Jesus and they would tell people about God's love, and they would show people how God loves them.

Emmett: By fishing...?

Esther: By feeding people, and listening to people, and being friends with people, and telling people that no matter who they are, no matter how young or old they are, that God loves them.

Emmett: Say, I could do that.

Esther: Yes, you could.

Emmett: I could fish for people.

Esther: Yes, you could.

Emmett: Then people would look at me and say, "Emmett, you're such an idiom."

Esther: Or, they might say, "Emmett, you're a friend of Jesus."

Emmett: Hey, this means we don't have to wait for the summer to go fishing. We can tell people about God's love right now!

Esther: Yes. We could send some food to someone to enjoy, or phone someone who would appreciate talking to someone.

Emmett: Or wear masks to help keep everyone safe.

Esther: Let's do it, Emmett. Let's fish for people, just like Jesus said.

Emmett: Let's be idioms for Christ.

Esther: I'll say AMEN to that.

Emmett: Amen!