

# Why We Love Fish

*When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. (Mark 6:34, 39-41)*



- Though hated by the British, the Irish came to Christ through the love of one Brit: St. Patrick. Perhaps the best thing he ever wrote was a telling line in his *Letter to Coroticus*: "For them it is a disgrace \_\_\_\_\_."
- If you had to sum up the ethic of Jesus in one word, what would it be? "God is love ..." "For God so loved ..." "The greatest of these is love ..." "Love one another deeply ..." "Love never fails ..." "The fruit of the Spirit is love ..." "Love the Lord your God ..." "Love your neighbor as yourself ..." "Love covers a multitude of sins ..." Need more?
- Real love can bring lost people to Jesus. He loves the lost, and He teaches us to love them too.

## 1. When Jesus looks at the world, He \_\_\_\_\_.

*He had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. (Mark 6:34)*

- Jesus' mission is to seek and save the lost. But His motive is love.

*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! (Luke 13:34)*

*Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. (John 15:13)*

- Jesus has compassion on us. Compassion is \_\_\_\_\_.

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)*

## 2. Jesus teaches us to feed the hungry world.

*But he answered, "You give them something to eat." (Mark 6:37)*

- The world is full of hurt, broken, and lost people. What the world needs now: \_\_\_\_\_.

*The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. (Galatians 5:6)*

- The question remains: Do we love people enough to tell them about Jesus?

- Love busters:
  - The false belief that loving the lost \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The false tolerance that believes it's judgmental to tell people about Jesus.
  - The tragedy of being too busy to care about the lost.
  - The false definition of love that says \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Allowing yourself to remain unprepared to speak up for Christ
  - The fear of being rejected, labeled, or ridiculed.
- How can I overcome these love busters? Just start loving. Jesus will \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

*Taking the five loaves and the two fish ... he gave them to his disciples to set before the people .... They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand. (Mark 6:41-44)*

### 3. Jesus presides at a \_\_\_\_\_. Let's invite others!

*....at your love feasts .... (Jude 12)*

- God is doing something beautiful at North Boulevard.
  - Hundreds of strong families.
  - Hundreds of friends for life.
  - Regular joy and celebration.
  - Forgiveness of sins, healing for hurts, escapes from bondage.
  - A mission worth living for.
  - A bond that cannot be broken.
- All things are ready. Come to the Feast!

*The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's Jubilee. (Luke 4:18-19)*

Page 7: that we are Irish; feels compassion; the ability to feel the pain of others; love, sweet love

Page 8: is the preacher's job; we should accept everyone as is; multiply your efforts; love feast