

Good News From Chardon

Church of Christ

1 2 8 M A P L E A V . C H A R D O N , O H I O 4 4 0 2 4

Schedule of Services

Greeting: Tom

Song Leader: Dale

Opening Hymn:

59—Holy, Holy, Holy

Opening Prayer: Larry

Hymn:

403—No Tears In Heaven

Scripture Reading: Robert

Luke 5:1-11

Hymn:

649—I Gave My Life For Thee

Lord's Supper: Ray

Hymn:

77—Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah

Sermon: Tom

Invitation Hymn:

642—I Am Resolved

Closing Hymn:

103—A Beautiful Life

Closing Prayer: Jerad

It's Not About Fish

Most all of us have told stories about fishing. If not we have at least heard fish stories. And probably most of them have been exaggerated at least a bit, haven't they. But it's hard to beat the fish stories in the Bible ... and they are not exaggerated! For example, the story of Jonah, or finding a coin in a fish's mouth to pay taxes (Matthew 17).

Have you ever gone fishing and ended up with two boat loads of fish so heavy the boats were sinking? That's what happened to professional fishermen Peter, Andrew, James and John after fishing all night and getting skunked (Luke 5.1-11). A similar thing happened sometime later when Peter and a few friends went fishing all night and caught nothing. Someone from the shore called out to them, "Cast your net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." They did, and ended up with 153 large fish so heavy they had a difficult time hauling them to shore (John 21.1-14).

That someone was Jesus. In both of these last two stories Jesus told the experienced fishermen to cast their nets once again into the sea. Even though Jesus was a carpenter turned preacher and not a fisherman, Peter, who was a professional fisherman, cast his nets into the sea once again just because Jesus told him to do so. "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets" (Luke 5.5).

As exciting and entertaining as these fish stories are in their own right, these stories are not about fish. They are merely the means to help us see the incredible and amazing power of God over nature. God created a fish large enough to swallow Jonah, keep him alive for three days, and then spit him up on the beach. Incredible! God put a specific Roman coin in a specific fish's mouth for Peter to catch on his first try so he could pay his taxes. Wow! Because the fishermen took Jesus at his word, the boats became overloaded with fish. All of these fish stories go far beyond natural law. They are so far beyond what's normal that many skeptics question their authenticity. These skeptics fail to see and believe that these stories are not about fish, they are about God.

It makes me wonder how many other "natural" events in our lives are like these fish stories. How many times have we been in just the right place at just the right time to receive something special (a job opportunity; a discount; help with a flat tire; a new friend; etc.)? Was it luck, or was it God? Was it "natural" or was it Providence? The concept of providence can be seen throughout the Bible for those who are open to see it. What Peter saw when his nets and boats were filled with fish helped him see Jesus as the Lord and himself as a sinner: "I am a sinful man, O Lord" (Luke 5.8). Because of the fish Peter saw the Lord. Because he saw the Lord, Jesus called him to become a fisher of men (Luke 5.10).

What are these fish stories telling you? Are you more impressed with the abundance of blessings God gives you, or that they are calling you for a higher purpose?

Joe Chesser preaches for the Fruitland Church of Christ, Fruitland, MO.

Let down your net

5:10

G Y T O U W D P L P I L G H L
 C N M O A T R C A H E R M E E
 N C I A I E O V K O E E T L S
 G N P K S L L I E A L M D P Y
 N E T S A T E A T P C F J Y R
 T R I L H E E D U T I T L U M
 Z N F G W X P R A S L Q O T O
 G R I H U O E S H N U M B E R
 K N H A C W R E K T C R J E N
 Y I Q R S N R D E N E D A T O
 L E S N B M U X E A I F M A M
 J B A O E O C A K L Z S E U I
 Y O A N S L K I L Z L I S G S
 O T H S R E N T R A P I H H C
 S W R N A G L U F N I S F T P

answer	boats	breaking
deep	filled	fishermen
great	help	James
John	lake	launch
Lord	master	multitude
nets	night	number
partners	pressing	Simon
sinful	sink	speaking
taught	toiled	word

Hidden Message:

PRAYER LIST

- **Mark & Debbie** as they travel; **their** newborn granddaughter.
- **Pat** and her family
- **Allen**, Wanda's son
- **Mary** and her family. **Carl's** gout
- **Betty's** friend **Becky** who has a broken ankle
- **Bonne's** grandson **Dakota**
- **Bear Nicholas**, Tom and Nina's 5-year-old great nephew, is now at home
- **Kathy**, her sister and friends. Kathy's foot surgery
- **Zarna** and her family
- **Larry** and **Ruth**.
- **Juanita's** sister **Betty** and the rest of her family.
- **Dale's** brother-in-law **Spike's** heart attach
- **Ray** and **Barbara** and their family.
- **Dale's** health issues, job hunting and his family. His friend **Riley** (age 6) who has cancer.
- **Ray** and family as they recover from illness and surgery
- **Myron** and **Carole**
- **Prayers for our congregation**
- **Prayers for Ukraine**

CALENDAR

- June 12—Bible Study 10 am, Worship 11 am Speaker: Tom
- June 15—(b) Audrey
- June 19—Bible Study 10 am, Worship 11 am Speaker: Mark
- June 19—(b) Asher
- June 19—(a) Danny & Susan
- June 22—(b) Bonne
- June 22—(b) Brendan

Upcoming Events and Announcements

- June 28th—Ladies bible study at Bonnies
- July 15-20 Christian Leadership Camp Columbus
- Aug. 14-22—Streetsboro C of C Gospel Meeting

Your attitude, not your aptitude,
will determine your altitude

SUNDAY: Bible Study—10:00 am, Worship—11:00 am

Website: Chardonchuarchofchrist.org

E-mail: church_of_Chist@roadrunner.com

Pod Cast: Chardon.podbeam.com Follow us on Facebook: Church of Christ

Zoom I.D.: 81430241090 Password: 444015

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you will catch
Answer to puzzle: