

The Fishers

By Rod

Episode I: A Fishy Business

Adam Oh Josh, I hate this plaice.

Josh Well Adam, I don't think much of this haddock either.

Adam It's nothing but fish, fish, fish around here. You wake up in the morning and what's the first thing you do? Fish!

Josh You're right . And that's at the crack of dawn. Why can't fish get up at a civilised hour like everybody else?

Adam You flog your guts out on your father's boat...

Josh For a pittance of a wage

Adam If you're lucky...

Josh Yeah, you're right. I reckon my dad sees me as free slave labour.

Adam Then you haul your catch ashore (by which time you're starving hungry desperate for something to eat) and what does your mum serve you for breakfast? Fish. I tell you, I'm fed up with fish.

Josh Me too. But that's all anyone thinks about round here. The Sea of Galilee is great for fishing – but nothing else.

Adam It's so boring.

Josh Hang on Adam. Here comes your sister with her friend Lydia. Hi Beth, hi Lydia.

Beth Hi Josh

Lydia Hi Josh, hi Adam. What were you too talking about – you looked pretty intense?

Adam I'll give you one guess.

Beth Now let me see... Could it be perhaps – fish.

Adam *[Sarcastic]* Wow, you must be psychic.

Beth Well, I am your twin sister. They say that twins can read each other's minds.

Josh I wouldn't try and read Adam's mind too often if I were you Beth. Most of it is X-rated – especially when he thinks about Esther.

Lydia Oh, Esther is it? Who's she?

Josh The daughter of the synagogue ruler, Jairus. He saw her one day and took quite a shine to her.

Adam Thank you Josh. Can we change the subject, please?

Lydia So it's true, you do fancy Esther.

Adam So, what have you two been doing?

Beth We've been helping at the market selling...

Adam Don't tell me, don't tell me... Fish?

Beth You've got it.

Adam Doesn't anyone talk about anything around here that's no connected with fish?

Lydia Well everybody at the market was talking about this guy Jesus.

Josh Jesus? Isn't he that carpenter? I'm sure my mum and dad got their table and chairs from him. They say he's pretty good by all accounts.

Lydia Well, he was a carpenter but now it seems he's given it up.

Josh How do you mean? Given it up.

Adam I expect he's become a fisherman like everybody else.

Lydia Well, Adam, in a kind of way he has.

Adam How do you mean Lydia?

Lydia Well, the word on the street is that he was wandering along the beach one day and he came across two brothers Simon and Andrew.

Adam I know them, my dad's good mates with them. He generally calls Simon, Peter.

Lydia That's right Adam.

Josh Why's he called Peter?

Adam I'm not sure

Josh Doesn't Peter mean rock?

Beth Maybe he hit his boat on a rock.

Josh Maybe he's not too clever – a bit solid in the head.

Lydia May I continue, Josh?

Josh Be my guest, Lydia.

Lydia Anyway, as I was saying before I was so rudely interrupted, Jesus met Simon Peter and Andrew. And he said to them “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men”.

Josh “Fishers of men”. What on earth does that mean?

Adam It sounds really boring. Just like all fishing.

Beth [*Sexily*] It sounds quite exciting to me – I wouldn’t mind catching a few hunky men in my net – and I certainly wouldn’t throw them back.

Adam I bet Simon Peter and Andrew gave Jesus the heave ho. They don’t suffer fools gladly.

Lydia Well as a matter of fact, Adam, they didn’t. By all accounts they abandoned their nets and followed Jesus straight away.

Josh They never.

Lydia They did.

Beth That’s what people say. And what’s more, Jesus called two other brothers, James and John, and they did exactly the same thing.

Adam I bet their dad Zebedee was none too pleased. Fancy abandoning your fishing boats just like that.

Beth The word is Zebedee was hopping mad!

Adam I’ll bet he was.

Josh It makes you think though, doesn’t it.

Lydia How do you mean, Josh?

Josh Well what is it about Jesus that made Peter, Andrew, James and John all give up their main source of income (their only source of income) just like that?

Beth You’ve got a point Josh.

Adam I reckon it’s perfectly understandable. They are so bored of fishing they are desperate for any excuse to skive off for a day.

Beth There’s got to be more to it than that. People were saying that he’s turned himself into a travelling preacher.

Josh What sort of things is he saying, Beth?

Beth “Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

Josh He sounds interesting, this guy Jesus. I vote we go check him out.

Lydia That sounds like a good idea, I’ll vote for that.

Beth Me too. After all – nothing else interesting ever happens around here.

Lydia Except when the price of fish goes soaring up by one denarius.

Beth Oh yeah, I forgot about how ultraexciting that can be! How about you
Adam, are you going to join us in checking out this Jesus fellow?

Adam I suppose so. At least it could be more interesting than fishing.

THE END