

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Observation of Ten Fishermen

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**D**ou could not have missed them. Ten men, all lined up on the bank, were casting their lines into the chilling water. The reason they stood out was not that they were out of place, for it is a body of water that is stocked with fish. The conspicuousness was that a sudden crowd gathered at a place that had attracted no one in the recent past. No doubt the yearly stocking of fresh trout attracted the sudden interest of encouraged anglers.

I observed how early the ten had gathered to fish. Dawn was breaking. This is the time of day fish probably will be more inclined to bite, so the knowledgeable fishermen are up before dawn to begin fishing at a most opportune time. I began to think that the time of day we assemble for worship is really not the issue as much as the importance one puts on the activity. Assembling at 9:00 A.M. for Bible study, and a worship hour at 9:50, is not really that early when I observed the early rise of ten men. It is not that we cannot rise at an early hour on one day of the week, but is rising to worship God on the first day of the week important. We should

gather together on the first day of the week, to partake of the Lord's supper, remembering the implications of Jesus' death, and engage in singing praise unto the God of our salvation as grateful disciples have done from the beginning (*Acts 20:7, Ephesians 5:19*). We will do so, regardless of the time, if the activity of worship is pre-eminent in our lives.

I observed how long these ten men were willing to stand on the bank's edge and fish. They did not seem to mind remaining on their feet as they cast their lines and reeled them in. I noticed that when one decided to allow his two rods to be stationary for a while, he sat down on a metal paint bucket. Maybe it is not how comfortable or hard our benches are in our places of worship that should occupy our focus, but how interested we are in listening to the word of God proclaimed. Longing for the word as a newborn babe longs for nourishing milk (*2 Peter 2:3*) may find us not even conscious of the texture of our seats or even an uncomfortable temperature. We are too interested in the word proclaimed that will help us grow toward salvation in Heaven to be distracted with such things.

These ten fishermen were not alone. Two of the men had their sons with them. One of the little boys was perched uprightly on a canvas stool intently watching his dad cast a lure into the water. Before long, the dad had the little boy casting a line with his own small rig. Imagine getting a five year old boy up this early, equipping him with the proper attire and taking him fishing. One must really want this little fellow to learn fishing that will profit him for a life time. If worshipping God and growing spiritually is important enough to a dad, you will probably see him getting up on the Lord's day, equipping his children with their own Bible, and accompanying them to the worship assembly. What a powerful moment when example and influence issue from a father earnestly desiring spiritual mindedness in his children (*Proverbs 23:26, Ephesians 6:4*).

May we be as engaged in worship today, striving to influence our children toward spiritual growth, as these ten men were in carrying out the various demands of fishing.