

Jesus, our business partner

https://christianworkingwoman.org/topic_content/jesus%252c%2Bour%2Bbusiness%2Bpartner%2B/

Have you learned that Jesus knows all about your business and can give you the guidance you need in the marketplace? I think many times we exclude Jesus from those areas of our lives, as though it's just not His area of expertise so we'll handle that ourselves.

Do you remember when Jesus told Peter how to fish? I'm sure Peter must have thought, "You're a carpenter, not a fisherman; what do you know about fishing?" But he soon learned that Jesus could be trusted to help him in his chosen profession.

Peter had fished all night and caught nothing, and he was ready to give up and go home. But Jesus said to him, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." Peter didn't go to him for fishing advice, because he'd never thought of the Lord as an expert on fishing.

No, instead Jesus intervened in this business dilemma without being asked. And He gave Peter some strange instructions. Peter knew that you don't fish in mid-day, you fish at night. And you don't catch fish in the deep waters.

Reading between the lines a bit, he says to Jesus, in effect, "Lord, it's not going to do any good. I appreciate your concern, but you just don't understand fish, Lord. However, I'll give you a lesson in fishing, and since you asked me, I'll go through this futile exercise and take the boat out, though of course it's just a waste of time."

So weary Peter, having worked a futile night, obeys the Lord, probably with a martyr's complex. And, of course, he learns a great lesson: Jesus knows how to fish, because He is God and He controls the fish. Peter broke all the fishing rules, and he almost broke his nets because he caught so many fish.

Don't you and I do the same thing? We exclude Jesus and His authority from certain areas. After all, what does Jesus know about my difficulty at work? How could He help me with my job, or co-worker, or manager? So we go on in our own strength, fishing all night, working hard, and finding few if any solutions or answers or success.

Jesus has authority, power and knowledge of all things, and if we allow Him to guide us in all areas, we will discover, like Peter, that He knows what He's talking about. His methods are usually unorthodox. Our faith will be tested. But then, how else would we know who was in control? If we succeeded by our own methods, we'd take the credit. But when Jesus intervenes and we follow His non-traditional instructions, we learn who He is and who we are, just as Peter did.

I was interested in Peter's response when he saw his nets almost breaking with all those fish. It was humility. "Go away from me, Lord;" he said, "I am a sinful man." Why this response, rather than thanking Jesus? Because Peter knew his own heart and he had not fished by faith. He never believed for a minute that he would catch even one fish.

And when the nets started to fill up, Peter was again reminded that Jesus is Lord of heaven and earth—and of fish! And as he is reminded of who Jesus is, he sees his own faithless, arrogant heart and knows his unworthiness to even be in the presence of Jesus Christ.

But let's not be too hard on dear Peter. Don't we do the same thing? We exclude Jesus and His authority from certain areas and go in our own strength, fishing all night, working hard, and finding few if any solutions or answers or success.

Notice the result of this experience for Peter. First, he had success—great success. Second, he understood Jesus better. And third, he saw himself more clearly, and was humbled.

Through His Word, the Lord has good advice and counsel for us, if we'll just take time to read and apply it. Many of us say we believe the Bible, but then we look other places to find help and guidance.

When you regularly store God's Word in your heart and mind, you'll start to discover that a verse or passage will leap off the pages at you and you'll see how it relates to your own life. Countless times God has given me clear directions concerning business affairs as I've read and meditated on His written Word.

Jesus has authority, power and knowledge of all things and if we allow Him to guide us in our business life, we'll discover, like Peter, that He knows what He's talking about.