

Finding Fish on the Line

A man took his six-year-old boy fishing with him. They put out the line and then went up to the cabin.

After an hour, they went back down to the river to see if they had caught anything.

Sure enough, there were several fish on the line. The boy said, "I knew there would be, Daddy."

The father asked, "How did you know?" The boy replied, "Because I prayed about it."

So they baited the hooks again and put out the line and went back to the cabin for supper. Afterward, they returned to the river. Once again, there were fish on the line. The boy said, "I knew it."

The father said, "How?"

"I prayed again" was the answer.

So they put the line back into the river and went to the cabin. Before bedtime, they went down again to the water's edge. This time, there were no fish.

The son said, "I knew there wouldn't be any." And the father asked, "How did you know?"

The boy's response: "Because I didn't pray this time."

"And why didn't you pray?" inquired the father.

"Because I remembered that we forgot to bait the hooks," the youngster said.

There is wisdom in the little boy's declaration. When we pray, we should be prepared, including:

1. Confessing our sins, which interrupt our communication with God. Jesus taught, in what has become known as the Lord's Prayer, that we should ask God to "forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."
2. Praying in accordance with God's purposes. In that model prayer, Jesus said we should want "Thy [God's] will be done."

And in the ministry we are called to do, preparation is the key to successful attainment of our objectives – finding the fish on the line.

– Beecher Hunter

