

“CLEAN FISH”

By
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Synopsis

Two church members are fishing on a pier. In the course of their conversation, Charles expresses concern that the church is attracting a lot of people with personal problems. While they are talking, Deacon Wilson repeatedly catches fish and throws them back into the water. Eventually, Deacon Wilson explains that he is looking for a fish that has already been cleaned inside and out. Charles realizes there is no such thing as a “clean fish”; after you catch the fish, then you can clean it. Deacon Wilson helps Charles understand that new members are like that. They may come with many problems and issues but God is able to change them just like He changed us.

Scripture

Mark 2:17 *“On hearing this, Jesus said to them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.” NIV*

Ministry Lesson

Every church wants to grow their membership in the communities they serve. Sometimes the current members may be reluctant to open their hearts to accept new members who may not be or act like them. The Pharisees felt it was unfitting for Jesus to associate himself with sinners, but they were the ones who needed God most. As Christians we must encourage people to come to God (and our church) regardless of who they are or their status in life.

Ministry Focus: Growing in Christ

Genre: Comedy

Cast

- Deacon Wilson (40+)
- Charles (25-35)

Costumes

Normal everyday attire

Props

- Two chairs
- Two fishing rods

Time: 6 minutes

CLEAN FISH

EXT. FISHING PIER

TWO MEN ARE SITTING ON THE PIER FISHING. THEY CAST THEIR LINES INTO THE WATER.

DEACON WILSON

All we have to do now is wait.

CHARLES

Where did you find this place?

DEACON WILSON

Oh, it's just a little hide-away I ran across some years ago.

CHARLES

Yeah, it's pretty isolated around here.

DEACON WILSON

But it's a great spot to catch fish.
Nice and quiet.

CHARLES

Deacon Wilson, I want to thank you for inviting me out.

DEACON WILSON

You don't need to thank me. I've been hoping we could get together and talk for some time.

CHARLES

Oh Absolutely!

DEACON STARTS JERKING HIS LINE

Hey looks like you caught a fish.

DEACON WILSON REELS IN THE FISH AND TAKES IT OFF THE HOOK

DEACON WILSON

Ah, a ten inch Rock Fish.

DEACON EXAMINES THE FISH, THEN THROWS IT BACK INTO THE WATER. HE RE-CASTS HIS LINE INTO THE WATER.

CHARLES

You don't keep the fish you catch?

DEACON WILSON

It's not what I'm looking for.

CHARLES LOOKS PUZZLED BY DEACON WILSON'S RESPONSE BUT DOESN'T PURSUE IT FURTHER.

DEACON WILSON (CONT'D)

So Brother Charles, how long have you been a member of our church?

CHARLES

I guess it's been about five years now.

DEACON WILSON

That long!? Seems like yesterday. I remember when you first joined. You were a pretty strange guy.

CHARLES

Yeah, I had a lot of problems, but I've changed over the years, and the church has too.

DEACON STARTS PULLING ON HIS LINE AGAIN

CHARLES (CONT'D)

You caught another one already!?

DEACON WILSON REELS IN THE FISH AND TAKES IT OFF THE HOOK

DEACON WILSON

Looks like a Grouper.

DEACON EXAMINES THE FISH, THEN THROWS IT BACK INTO THE WATER. HE RE-CASTS HIS LINE INTO THE WATER AGAIN.

CHARLES' REACTION IS MORE PRONOUNCED BUT HE STILL DOESN'T QUESTION THE DEACON ABOUT THROWING HIS FISH BACK INTO THE WATER.

CHARLES

Man, I must be using the wrong bait.

DEACON WILSON

One thing about fish, they're always hungry.

DEACON WILSON (cont'd)

You just have to offer them something they need. Now, what were you saying about the church?

CHARLES

Oh yeah, I was saying the church has changed too.

DEACON WILSON

What do you mean?

CHARLES

(Hesitant) I mean, we're starting to reach out into the community and more people are joining the church. Most of them are okay, but a few... well...uh

DEACON WILSON

Go on...

CHARLES

Some people have a lot of problems. We have to be careful because some people can be pretty rough. I know because I used to hang out with some of them.

DEACON STARTS PULLING ON HIS LINE AGAIN

DEACON WILSON

I think I caught another one.

DEACON WILSON REELS IN THE FISH AND TAKES IT OFF THE HOOK.
DEACON EXAMINES THE FISH,

DEACON WILSON (CONT'D)

Still not right.

HE THROWS IT BACK INTO THE WATER. HE RE-CASTS HIS LINE INTO THE WATER AGAIN.

FINALLY CHARLES QUESTIONS THE DEACON.

CHARLES

Now Deacon Wilson, you've caught three
fish. Why do you keep throwing them
back into the water?

- End of Preview -

Deacon Wilson gives Charles a powerful lesson on growing in
Christ. Click on the ADD TO CART button to see the rest of the
script.
