Fishing — when the men you offered to help do not call back

From the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous Story: “He Sold Himself Short”

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The next day I went back to Chicago and started a vigorous campaign among my so-called friends or drinking companions. Their answer was always the same: If they needed it at any time, they would surely get in touch with me. I went to a minister and a doctor whom I still knew, and they, in turn, asked me how long I had been sober. When I told them six weeks, they were polite and said that they would contact me in case they had anyone with an alcoholic problem.

Needless to say, it was a year or more before they did contact me. On my trips back to Akron to get my spirits recharged and to work with other alcoholics, I would ask Dr. Bob about this delay and wonder just what was wrong with me. He would invariably reply, “When you are right and the time is right, Providence will provide. You must always be willing and continue to make contacts.”

Finding Sponsees

When, therefore, we were approached by those in whom the problem had been solved, there was nothing left for us but to pick up the simple kit of spiritual tools laid at our feet. We have found much of heaven and we have been rocketed into a fourth dimension of existence of which we had not even dreamed. (*There Is A Solution*)

- If I have a problem, and a solution is presented to me, why wait?
- The only blocks could be:
  - I don’t believe I have a problem

        - Or I don't believe I have a problem sufficiently grave to warrant a solution that requires sacrifice
    - I don't believe you have a solution
    - I don't believe your solution will work for me

How do I know it's disagreeable? Not by asking myself! There are lots of things I say I find disagreeable, but not disagreeable enough to do something about. If I say I find something disagreeable, yet do nothing, or act only slowly to resolve the problem, I have a little secret. What's the little secret? I find the solution more disagreeable than the problem. The solution might be disagreeable because it involves challenge, effort, time, attention, concentration, etc.

That's usually not the only reason, though. Such problems are really a coin with two sides. One side has the consequences, and it is because of this side I classify the coin as a problem. But there is a flip side: the kick I'm getting out of it. The solution might therefore be disagreeable also because it involves giving up the kick.

So, when I've got a problem, but dally or dawdle with the solution, my problem is that I have a hobby with consequences, and, until I'm willing to be rid of the hobby as well as the consequences, I'm going to continue suffering the consequences.

Fishing: *Make this your number one priority, and pray every morning to maximise your opportunities to help other people.*

1. *CONSTANTLY ASKING GOD TO ENABLE ME TO BE OF MAXIMUM SERVICE*
2. *CONSTANTLY ASKING GOD TO OPEN MY EYES TO OPPORTUNITIES. KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR PEOPLE YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP OR OTHERWISE BUILD A RELATIONSHIP WITH.*
3. *CONSTANTLY ASKING GOD TO WORK THROUGH ME, BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER SUCH EXPERIENCES*
4. *PRAY EVERY MORNING TO MAXIMISE YOUR OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE.*
5. *ANYTHING THAT GETS IN THE WAY OF SERVING GOD MUST GO.*

6. *BE PREPARED AND CREATE THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH GOD CAN WORK MOST EFFECTIVELY.*

7. *SHARE AT EVERY MEETING, HONESTLY* AND WITH A PRESENTATION OF THE SOLUTION YOU HAVE BEEN SHOWN,_ EXACTLY WHAT YOU DID, AND THE EXCELLENT RESULTS YOU GOT._

8. *ASK GOD FOR INSPIRATION AND GUIDANCE IN THE MOMENT.*

9. *START MY DAY WITH A STEP THREE PRAYER AND MEDITATION AND MAKE A DECISION JUST FOR THIS DAY THAT I AM GOING TO DO GOD'S WILL IN ALL MY AFFAIRS—WITH FAMILY, WORK/BUSINESS, IN THE ROOMS OF RECOVERY AND WHEN I AM IN PUBLIC (ON THE STREETS, IN THE GROCERY STORE).*

10. AS I *EXECUTE MY DAY UNDER GOD'S EMPLOYMENT* IT IS IMPORTANT THAT I REMAIN *COGNIZANT OF MY MOTIVES AND BEHAVIOURS.*

11. AM I DOING GOD'S WILL?

12. AM I CONTRIBUTING TO LIFE OR AM I THINKING ABOUT MYSELF 90 PERCENT OF THE TIME.

13. CORRECT MY ACTIONS THROUGH:
    1. prayer,
    2. meditation,
    3. doing inventories,
    4. discussing my defects with others,
    5. making amends when necessary,
    6. carrying the message to those that still suffer

14. *SHARE AT EVERY MEETING, HONESTLY* AND WITH A PRESENTATION OF THE SOLUTION YOU HAVE BEEN SHOWN, *EXACTLY WHAT YOU DID, AND THE EXCELLENT RESULTS YOU GOT.*

15. *GETTING THERE EARLY AND LEAVING LATE*

16. *REACHING OUT TO THOSE WHO ARE NEW OR STRUGGLING. BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH THESE PEOPLE.*

17. *STRIP FROM WITHIN YOU ANY SHRED OF RESISTANCE, FEAR, RELUCTANCE, OR OTHER IMPEDIMENT. YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF YOUR OWN CONSCIOUSNESS, NOT ANYONE ELSE, AND IT'S TIME TO STEP UP TO THE PLATE AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITYS*

Every day is a day when we must carry the vision of God's will into all of our activities. "How can I best serve Thee—Thy will (not mine) be done.'" **maximum service to**

God and the people about us.

Ask Him in your morning meditation what you can do each day for the man who is still sick. ask God, every day, how I can place myself in a position where God can use my experiences, story, knowledge, action, and results to help others through me.

- hanging out with other people in recovery
- Make sure your own house is in order (Steps One to Eleven).
- Go to lots of meetings, in particular meetings with a lot of people who are new or struggling.
- Get there early, leave late, and stay for fellowship. Don't sit there staring at your phone. Talk to people. If you don't know anyone, ***hard luck: talk to people anyway. Ask God for inspiration and guidance in the moment.***
- At meetings, ***pray constantly to be of maximum service and to keep an eye out for people you might be able to help or otherwise build a relationship with.***
- Get numbers of people new or struggling and build relationships with them, letting them know that you're available to help (although not pushing it further than that).
- ***Share at every meeting, honestly*** and with a presentation of the solution you have been shown, ***exactly what you did, and the excellent results you got.***
- ***Make this your number one priority, and pray every morning to maximise your opportunities to help other people.***
- If, on a particular day, you do not have a phone or face to face appointment with a sponsee, go to a meeting.
- Strip from within you any shred of resistance, fear, reluctance, or other impediment. You're in charge of your own consciousness, not anyone else, and it's time to step up to the plate and take responsibility: ***anything that gets in the way of serving God must go.***
- Remember: you agreed at the start to go to any lengths for victory of alcohol or whatever else ails you.

In other words: ***be prepared and create the conditions in which God can work most effectively.***

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