

Luke 5:1-11

One Liner of the Week

“God wants to do in, through us, and for us things that will never be accomplished if we stay at ease in the shallow waters of life.”

Food for the Soul

M: Luke 2:39-52

T: Luke 3:1-22

W: Luke 4:1-13

T: Luke 4:14-37

F: Luke 4:38-5:11

S: Luke 5:12-26

S: Luke 5:27-39

Discussion Guide

January 21, 2024

Sermon Synopsis

It may sound strange to consider Jesus as a coach. After all, He is King of kings and Lord of lords, the Savior of the world. However, when we consider how He takes us as we are and molds us and shapes us to be what He wants us to be, we quickly realize that, much like a coach, He does this step-by-step as we follow Him. Jesus knows exactly where you are today, and more importantly He knows exactly where He wants to lead you. We invite you to listen today, to follow His lead, and to be changed by the work He does in your life.

Items for Discussion

What role does obedience play in the life of a Christian?

Group Question #1

As Jesus called Peter to go into the deep water for fish, so Jesus calls us into the uncomfortable depths for holiness - But what depths? We could think of the shallow waters as "comfortable Christianity". We go to Church on Sunday. We open our Bible app while we're there, even, and follow along. We try to do right by people throughout the week and maybe read some sort of devotional every once in a while. Those things aren't hard. The danger comes when we think those things are enough, that Christianity consists of these things. Yes, being a disciple of Jesus does include these things, but, there is so much more to it than that! As Christ called Peter into the deep water, He calls His disciples into a depth of relationship with Him that produces real holiness of living. It is in the deep water of God's Word where we are forced to reckon with who God in Christ really is and what He demands, as the King of a Kingdom from His people. As a group, read 1 Peter 1:13-20. What does God require of His people? Why?

Group Question #2

An evidence of authentic Christianity is seen when people who profess to follow Jesus do as Peter did. Jesus called Peter to go to the deep water. Peter certainly was inclined to resist such an instruction. It didn't make sense. It would be uncomfortable. Maybe even pointless. But He did it anyway as he recognized that the One instructing him to do so was Someone Special. Peter's going to the proverbial deep end was a sign of his faith, little as that faith was at that time. Genuine believers are much the same. Christ calls them to God's Word. God's Word uncomfortably challenges the believer to live holily. We, as Peter, when we obey the Master's instruction begin to bear the fruit of holiness slowly over time as we abide in the deep water. As we see this fruit begin to form, the Christian rejoices and our faith is enlarged as Peter's faith was enlarged when they caught so many fish that the boat almost sank! Not only is obedience a sign of real faith, but, real faith produces real obedience. Read James 2:14-25 and discuss the relationship between faith and works (obedience). (Group Leaders: Carefully explain that James is not saying that our works produce our salvation. Rather, our works PROVE our salvation!)

Group Question #3

This pursuit of real holiness of life is dangerous! To pursue holiness, one must know what it means to be holy. This is precisely what we have in the person and work of Jesus. Peter realized, unequivocally, that he was in the presence of the Holy One after he understood what the giant catch of fish meant. What was Peter's response? "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." If we are truly saved, we will desire holiness. We will find the example we are to aim for in the face of Jesus Christ. So, we dive into the deep end of Scripture where He is fully revealed to us! Do not expect to have a different experience than Peter, though. The closer you get to the Holy One, the more keenly aware of your sin you will be. It will hurt. It will be dangerous. It will force you to wrestle with who you are, in and of yourself, in contrast to what God calls you to be. Read Romans 7:7-25 as a group. What encouragement do we find, here?