



#3 "Fish Tricks"

Big Idea:

Being A Sinner Does Not Disqualify You From Following Jesus; It Is A PREREQUISITE.

The Context:

First Century Jewish Theology, Associated SICKNESS With Sin

At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. Luke 4:40

"When Jesus Began Healing People of Their Physical Sickness He Was Demonstrating His Ability To Heal People Of Their Spiritual Sickness – Sin"

The Invitation:

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." Matthew 4:18-20

The Back Story:

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. ² He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. Luke 5:1-3

- Christian Faith Does Not Begin With FAITH; It Begins With INFORMATION.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch. "Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." Luke 5:4-5

"We Have No Idea Of WHAT or WHO Hangs In The Balance Of Our Decision To Say Yes To Whatever It Is That God Wants Us To Do Next."

When Your Faithful ACTIONS Intersect With The Character And Faithfulness Of Jesus Things Change.

When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. Luke 5:6-7

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" . Luke 5:6-7

- Peter's Assumption Was That God DISTANCED Himself From Sinners.

"Jesus Came To Establish A Brand New Relationship Between God & Mankind."

When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." 1 Peter 2:23-24

Life Group Discussion Questions

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When you read the Gospels, two things are abundantly clear. Being a sinner doesn't disqualify you from following Jesus. And being an unbeliever doesn't disqualify you from following Jesus. So, what does that mean for you?

Discussion Questions

- Do you tend to be trusting or skeptical? How has that tendency positively or negatively affected your relationship with God?
- "Being a sinner doesn't disqualify you from following Jesus. It's a prerequisite." How does that idea challenge your assumptions about following Jesus?
- *Read Luke 5:1-7.* Have you ever chosen to trust God even though doing so didn't seem to make sense at the time? If so, what happened?
- *Read Luke 5:8-11.* Are you currently afraid that God is separating himself from you because of your sin? How might your life and faith be different if you were able to put aside that fear and trust him?
- *Read 1 Peter 2:23-24.* On a scale of 1 to 10, how well does your life reflect the truth that by Jesus' wounds *you* have been healed?
- In what area of your life do you need to increase your trust in Jesus? What is your best next step? How can your group support and encourage you as you take that step?

What Is Your Next Step?

Coming back, confessing, reconciling, choosing purity, taking a year off, serving, giving? Whatever your next step is, take it. You don't know what hangs in the balance.

Spend some time this week reading and reflecting on Luke 5.

Sources:

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