

Ducks in a Row

A Christ Centered Relationship [Luke 5:1-11]

Today we continue our series on priorities called ducks in a row. Reality confirms that if you do not set your priorities your life **will fill with meaningless tasks, events, and time wasters.**

Here is the worlds worst kept secret: we all have anxieties, deadlines, difficulties, and the daily grind. We all have daily grains of sand. If we let the sand dictate our day we will not have time for the rock.

Matt. 7:24 “Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them will be like a sensible man who built his house on the **rock**.

1Cor. 10:4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from a spiritual **rock** that followed them, and that **rock** was Christ.

A life that we fill. A life that we prioritize will never work. We must daily, build our hope and our relationship upon the Rock of Jesus.

As we read the Word of God. May the Lord richly transform our lives with Holy priority. May we be empty vessels.

Read Luke 5:1-11

I must continually Hear (Luke 5:1)

Luke 5:1 As the crowd was pressing in on Jesus to hear God’s word, He was standing by Lake Gennesaret.

The Word hear in Greek is *akouein* or what we get our English “acoustic.” To have a Christ centered relationship where our priorities are priority and our ducks are in a row, you must be a continual “hearer.”

There is no greater tragedy than a deaf Christian. Than a person who claims to follow Jesus yet cannot hear the Lord call and direct their life.

When was the last time you were pressing to here Jesus?

So what do we listen to and what do we listen for?

First we are to be hearers of **God and His voice.** **John 10:27** My sheep hear My voice, I know them, and they follow Me.

Are you desperate to hear the Lord in your life? The crowd was pressing on Jesus to hear God's Word. Hearing takes attention, focus, and time. Will you commit to be a hearer of Jesus?

You cannot the voice of God without seeking Jesus.

How glorious it is to know that you and I can hear God's voice and be known by the Lord!! Are you hearing God??

We must be hearers of **God's Word**

What the people are awaiting, and what gives the word its prophetic power, is the word of God. This is emphasized in 5:1 concisely but clearly (Bovon)

- Thus when the word resounds, it not only offers a verbal hope for life, but effects even now the new life in us, because each one experiences in it the grace of God's vindication, the weight of responsibility, the freedom from the deadly effect of guilt and limitation (Bovon)

To hear from God apart from His Word is an empty search. If you want to hear from God open His letter to you!

Imagine that you've decided to go sailing. The problem is that you know next to nothing about sailing. So you to the store and you purchase several books to find out what's involved. You carefully read them and then you talk to a veteran sailor who answers questions for you.

The next day, you rent a sailboat. You examine it closely to make certain that everything needed for a successful sailing experience is present and in good working order. Then, you take your boat out onto the lake.

Your excitement is at a fever pitch, though you're also afraid. But you follow the instructions you've read and the counsel received from the experience sailor, and you launch your boat into the water. You carefully monitor each step and hoist the sail.

At that precise moment you learn a crucial lesson. You can study sailing. You might even be able to build a sailboat. You can seek from the wisest and most veteran of sailors. You can cast your boat onto the most beautiful of lakes under a bright and inviting sun. You can successfully hoist the sail. But—and this is a big "but"—only God can make the wind blow!

It is the Spirit of God within you that opens your eyes and heart to His Word.

In a world that is information overloaded. We are in desperate need of true and continual "hearers" of Christ.

Will you commit to listen to the Lord in your life? Press in – Hear God --- Hear His Word.

I must continually follow (Luke 5:11)

Jesus wants followers not fans (5:5)

Master—a word used only by disciples or near-disciples (Marshall). In Luke it replaces “teacher” which Luke allows to stand on the lips of non-disciples.

In any case the word reflects an attitude of obedience (Marshall). Despite the fact of a fruitless and wearisome night’s fishing trip, Simon is prepared to lower the nets.

To follow Jesus we must have an **attitude** of a follower. God wants a willingness to follow.

The Lord is **constantly testing your desire and your faithfulness to follow**. How had God asked you to follow in the small things today? Look how Jesus was gauging, preparing, and encouraging the faithfulness of Peter.

Worship is a test. Thank God that with Jesus we can prove our faithfulness.

Following Christ does not mean that you have everything figured out. (5:5)

How long has Peter known Jesus? God does ask us to wait in order to follow him. He says follow. We are the ones who want to wait.

Any person, in any stage of life, can follow Christ.

Following Christ means that you trust him (5:5)

Simon is beginning to articulate his faith, which then expresses itself in the beautiful, “yet at your word.” (Bovon).

Following Christ means that we recognize our own inadequacy

What Simon expressed was the **sense of unworthiness and fear**. The presence of Jesus make Peter of his own inadequacy (Marshall).

What Peter does not realize is that **admitting one’s inability and sin is the best prerequisite for service**, since then one can depend on God (NIV).

For Jesus, **only sinners who know they are sinners in need of help can enter his service**. Rather than being unworthy, Peter is ready to serve with him (NIV).

Prioritizing Christ means that we will give up a lot.

Following Jesus means that we give up ourselves

What does it look like practically to follower Jesus Bethel?



My Response to the Gospel

Have you answered the call to follow Jesus?

The following prayer has been attributed to a Muslim convert to Christ:

"O God, I am Mustafah the tailor, and I work at the shop of Muhammad. The whole day long I sit and pull the needle and the thread through the cloth.

O God, you are the needle and I am the thread. I am attached to you and I follow you. When the thread tries to slip away from the needle, it becomes tangled and must be cut so it can be put back in the right place.

O God, help me to follow you wherever you lead me. For I am really only Mustafah the tailor, and I work in the shop of Muhammad on the great square."

This is the prayer of a follower.

Listen to Jesus. Follow Him. Prioritize your relationship.

God will hold everyone in creation accountable to His standard and Design. Jesus is our substitute and our covering. He holds us

Simple Prayer of Faith

He is ready to save you today.

Notes

Luke lets the spotlight fall upon one particular group of hearers, Simon and his companions, who not only listened to his preaching, but also responded to his command to go and fish in an unpropitious situation (Marshall).

In Luke 5:1-11, the focus is on Jesus' knowledge, the human condition, and the opportunity to share in God's task. Jesus can be trusted. In fact, he knows people better than they know themselves. (Bock)

⇒ the calling of disciples in this section highlights two of Luke's larger concerns—on the one hand with the sort of people with whom Jesus will associate, on the other with the importance of response (Green).

⇒ In many ways, the theme of this passage explicitly surfaces in Luke 5:32 (Green).

Luke 5:1 As the crowd was pressing in on Jesus to hear God's word, He was standing by Lake Gennesaret.

2 He saw two boats at the edge of the lake; the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. **3** He got into one of the boats, which belonged to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from the land. Then He sat down and was teaching the crowds from the boat.

⇒ **Word of God:** the phrase is used frequently in acts for the apostolic message, thus bringing out the continuity between the teaching of Jesus and that of the church; here the phrase stresses the significance of the message to be heard by Simon (NIGTC)

- What the people are awaiting, and what gives the word its prophetic power, is the word of God. This is emphasized in 5:1 concisely but clearly (Bovon)
- Thus when the word resounds, it not only offers a verbal hope for life, but effects even now the new life in us, because each one experiences in it the grace of God's vindication, the weight of responsibility, the freedom from the deadly effect of guilt and limitation (Bovon)

⇒ Saw

- Everything begins with the "glance of Jesus" (Bovon). Jesus' summoning glance lies between the neediness of the crowd and the readiness of the fishermen.

⇒ Washing

- The men have just completed a nocturnal task with a seine or drag net in deep water, in Mk they are casting a net, which was operating during the daytime from shore or a person standing in shallow water (NIGTC). After a fruitless nights work the men might try their luck with the casting net.

⇒ Nets

- Bivin identifies the nets being used as trammel nets—made of linen, visible to fish during the day and so used at night, requiring 2-4 men to deploy, and needing washing each morning (Green)

Luke 5:4 When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, “Put out into deep water and let down your nets for a catch.”

Luke 5:5 “Master,” Simon replied, “we’ve worked hard all night long and caught nothing! But at Your word, I’ll let down the nets.”

- ⇒ As a fisherman (Peter) he really has nothing to learn from a man of his age who only knows his way around on dry ground (Bovon). He quickly expresses this: it is actually nonsense to go fishing in the heat of the day if one has caught nothing in the more favorable hours of the night; moreover, his crew is tired.
- But at the same time he stands firm: “yet at your word I will” One one hand a fisherman—on the other already a disciple (Bovon)
 - Despite the fisherman’s professional view of the situation, at Jesus’ word Peter gives the command to his companions to cast the nets (Bock).
- ⇒ In his willingness to cast out the nets, Peter responds solely on the basis of Jesus word (Bock)

Master—a word used only by disciples or near-disciples (Marshall). In Luke it replaces “teacher” which Luke allows to stand on the lips of non-disciples.

In any case the word reflects an attitude of obedience (Marshall). Despite the fact of a fruitless and wearisome night’s fishing trip, Simon is prepared to lower the nets.

Simon is beginning to articulate his faith, which then expresses itself in the beautiful, “yet at your word.” (Bovon).

Fishing in deep waters + fishing during the daytime made for an impossible catch.

A Teacher teaching a fisherman → Jesus does not need people who will direct him but people who will serve him (NIV).

In addition, he is capable of directing them (disciples) on how they can best serve him (NIV).

If he can direct the disciples, he certainly is able to direct us through his Spirit as we depend on him (Eph. 6:18-20)

Luke 5:6 When they did this, they caught a great number of fish, and their nets began to tear. ⁷ So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them; they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

The glance of the Lord (5:2) organizes the church; the glance of the believer launches a confession (Bovon).

Luke 5:8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, because I'm a sinful man, Lord!" ⁹ For he and all those with him were amazed at the catch of fish they took, ¹⁰ and so were James and John, Zebedee's sons, who were Simon's partners.

"Don't be afraid," Jesus told Simon. "From now on you will be catching people!" ¹¹ Then they brought the boats to land, left everything, and followed Him.

What Simon expressed was the sense of unworthiness and fear. The presence of Jesus made Peter of his own inadequacy (Marshall).

The call to leave is focused on v.10 and the mission not on the "all" they had to give up (Marshall).

What Peter does not realize is that admitting one's inability and sin is the best prerequisite for service, since then one can depend on God (NIV).

For Jesus, only sinners who know they are sinners in need of help can enter his service. Rather than being unworthy, Peter is ready to serve with him (NIV).

- ⇒ The glance of the Lord organizes the church; the glance of the believer launches a confession (Bovon)
- ⇒ Simon's reaction, like that of Jesus in 4:39 is simultaneously verbal and nonverbal. The verbal prostration is religious behavior before the divine: on one hand, an homage; and on the other, a question of survival (Bovon).
- ⇒ With the one correct answer, he has confessed his human limitation and has pled for compassion (Bovon)
- ⇒ Peter's confession falls into 3 parts (Bock)
 1. He asks Jesus to depart. The awareness of God's presence, produces such a response in people; it yields a sense of unworthiness at receiving God's bounty (Luke 1:13, 30; Isa 6:1-6; Ezek 1:1-2:3)
 2. He bows as he realizes that he is a sinful man. This is not a confession of individual transgressions; rather it is a recognition of his character before the divine and his representative.
 - Such confessions are the means to acceptance by God.
 3. Peter addresses Jesus as Lord. The title's use reveals a confession that recognizes Jesus' authority along with God's working in Him.
- ⇒ We must be careful not to import a complete salvation experience and confession into Peter's response. But there is a significant spiritual point here. Jesus will take the faith and humble attitude exhibited in Peter and turn them into a call to serve (Bock).

Application

You cannot be a disciple “learner” until you realize that there is much to learn (NIV).

Doctors warn that a steady onslaught of loud noise, particularly through ear buds, is damaging the hearing of a generation wired for sound, although they may not realize it for years. More than 1 billion young people are at risk of hearing loss because of personal audio devices, such as smartphones, and damaging levels of sound at entertainment venues like electronic dance music festivals, where noise levels can top 120 decibels for hours, according to the World Health Organization.

"Probably the largest cause [of hearing damage] is millennials using iPods and [smartphones]," says Dr. Sreekant Cherukuri, an ear, nose, and throat specialist. Hearing loss among today's teens is about 30 percent higher than in the 1980s and 1990s, Cherukuri estimates.

"You (once) had a Walkman with two AA batteries and headphones that went over your ears," he told NBC News. "At high volume, the sound was so distorted and the battery life was poor. Nowadays, we have smart phones that are extremely complex computers with high-level fidelity."

The damage happens when sound travels from the earbud deep inside your ear to the cochlea, where some 20,000 hair cells transmit the sound to the brain. But if the sound is too loud, and listened to for too long, it can damage those hair cells, or worse, cause them to die off. Permanent damage can happen in minutes, experts say.

In a world that is information overloaded. We are in desperate need of true and continual “hearers” of Christ.

Possible Preaching Angles: Physical hearing loss is a serious situation, but spiritual hearing loss is devastating. Will anyone in the wired generation be able to hear the voice of God amidst the constant barrage of noise?