

## Disciples Making Disciples

Luke 5:1-11 “On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret,<sup>2</sup> and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets.<sup>3</sup> Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon’s, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat.<sup>4</sup> And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.”<sup>5</sup> And Simon answered, “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.”<sup>6</sup> And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking.<sup>7</sup> They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.<sup>8</sup> But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.”<sup>9</sup> For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken,<sup>10</sup> and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.”<sup>11</sup> And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

### ❖ Intro: Spoiler Alert

- **Jesus took these guys... and three to five years later because of their work we read this...**
  - Acts 17:6 “... these men who have turned the world upside down”
  - Simple men... fishermen mostly...
  - Regular working guys like us today...
- **What is stopping us from working?**
- **Let’s Ask Jesus Today**
  - What have you called me to...
  - Is it the status quo?
  - Is it just surviving?
  - Or, is it something greater.
- **These Men**
  - Were called to do extraordinary things...
  - And they went out and caught men for the kingdom of God
  - Their work was such, that the World was never the same
- **For us Today**
  - This is possible for us today.
  - You can do extraordinary things for God
  - And you can catch men for the kingdom of God
  - And snatch people out of the pits of hell and deliver them to God for salvation...

### ❖ 1) Regular Guys

- “On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret,<sup>2</sup> and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets.<sup>3</sup> Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon’s, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat.
- **These Guys were not the most educated people**
  - We know this later on because on a number of occasions
  - Others point out that these guys are “unlearned”
  - Unlearned... Means they were not very educated
- **What about us...**
  - We have various degrees of education in this church...

- And you may be a very smart individual in some areas...
- And maybe not.
- **The point is simply...**
  - No matter how educated you are...
  - You can do great things for God
  - You can know great things about God
  - And you can teach others great things about God...
- **So do not excuse yourself...**
  - Because you have never done it... or because you have never learned it...
  - Learn it now... Apply yourself to the task now...
  - God has given us many abilities to use...
  - One of the greatest is our brain and how we use it...
- **Let's Use our brains to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ...**
  - What will the Master find us regular people doing when He returns...?
- **Yet... I want you to see that the gospel is a simple message...**
  - Paul goes as far as to say that preaching it is foolishness...
  - **Which is why the so called wise of our day... reject it... it does not fit their man made logic**
  - **1 Corinthians 1:18-31** <sup>18</sup> For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." <sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. <sup>26</sup> For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."
  - **Listen: I read a report this that Atheists are smarter then people that believe in God**
    - ◆ Apparently they have been following this HUGE group or people for so many years...
    - ◆ And those who do not believe in God...
    - ◆ Turn our to be smarter or more educated that religious people...
  - **I am not going to get into the errors of how the study was done...**
    - ◆ But I will say... this is ok with me...
    - ◆ Because Paul says... We are not wise... but we get the gospel...
    - ◆ Hey... call us foolish... but we get the gospel...
    - ◆ And the gospel will put to shame the wisdom of the world...

## ❖ 2) Jesus Asks Them to Trust Him

- **And they do... there was a little hesitation**

- <sup>4</sup> And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” <sup>5</sup> And Simon answered, “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.”

➤ **At Your Word...**

- They trusted this Master...
- Now apparently... they had not yet begun to follow Him
- But they had heard Him speaking
- **They knew He was a teacher because they called Him Master...**
  - The use of this word did not mean they had followed Him yet
  - Only that they recognized Him as a teacher or rabbi

➤ **How do you respond when Jesus asks you to do something?**

- Do you doubt Him
- Do you use your logic like Peter...
  - We worked all night... they just aren't there
  - Maybe He was like me... We have already pulled them out of the boat and are washing them
  - I am not about to double up here... work extra time
- Or do you trust Him?

➤ **Peter and the others... They trust Him...**

- They said... at your Word... we will let down the nets...

❖ **3) Jesus Mercifully Showed Them His Power**

- <sup>6</sup> And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. <sup>7</sup> They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup> But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” <sup>9</sup> For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, <sup>10</sup> and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.

➤ **First we see a miracle...**

- So many fish that the boat began to sink...

➤ **Then We see worship**

- Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O lord...
- They were all astonished

❖ **4) Following Jesus Means... Making Disciples**

- And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.” <sup>11</sup> And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

➤ **Let Me Say This...**

- If making Disciples is not a priority in your life...
- Then you are NOT following Jesus... (confident)
- Everyone is at different spots...
- I understand there is a learning curve
- There are stumbles along the way...
  - There is a time of training and preparation
  - Then God begins to give us small tasks depending on our abilities...
  - When we are faithful He gives us more

➤ **The Fruit of the Believer...**

- Is in making more believers...
- This will look different for different people

- Some will be given many to make disciples of...
- Some will be given few...
- Some will be called to reach the easy
- Some are called to reach the hard cases
- **I am not trying to guilt trip you or anything...**
  - Just want to give you the truth of the Bible...
  - So you understand what God has called you to
- **Jesus says... Do not be afraid... from now on you will be catchers of men...**
  - **There is so much good stuff right here...**
  - **Do not be afraid...**
    - I believe He was telling Peter...
    - Yes... you should bow down and worship me...
      - ◆ but do not be afraid over your sinfulness before me
    - I have a plan for you...
    - I can take away your sin...
  - **Peter was worried about His sinful state...**
    - But Jesus was not...
    - Jesus had a plan for that..
  - **Jesus also did not want Peter to be afraid of Him**
    - Jesus wanted Peter to trust Him
    - And to stick close to His side and follow Him...
    - Jesus did not want Peter to allow His sinfulness and His flesh
    - To keep him from seeking Jesus...
  - **Also... do not be afraid... from now on**
    - You will be fishers of men...
      - ◆ Jesus did not want them to be afraid in their mission of catching men...
      - ◆ Jesus was going to send them out with the net of the gospel message
      - ◆ Jesus does not want His followers afraid...
      - ◆ Rather He wants them to know that they are not sent out on their own
      - ◆ Rather... the Lord Jesus who commanded the world into existence has sent them
      - ◆ And He will be with them...
- **Jesus Promises He will be with them as they are trying to reach men...**
  - **Matthew 28:18-19<sup>9</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,<sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."**
  - He was going to be with them...
  - **Why did they catch so many fish?**
    - Was it because Jesus was like some crazy mad fish scientist...
    - That knew and understood their patterns because of environmental conditions
    - Or was it because He commanded the fish to head to the net...
    - I believe Jesus told the fish to go to the net...
- **Jesus has power over the fish**
  - Jesus has power over men
- **Peter took a net to catch fish**
- **Then He was told to take the gospel to catch men**
- **We are called to take the gospel to catch men...**
  - So we are to take it...
  - And we are to cast it out...

- And we are to see God bring in the harvest...

## ❖ 5) They Left Everything and Followed Him...

- **<sup>11</sup> And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.**

➤ You see at the end...

➤ **They brought their boats up...**

- And they left everything to follow Jesus...
- **Anything that was theirs was left behind to follow Jesus**
  - Obviously we know they left their jobs...
  - But, what about who they used to be...
  - No longer were they going to be people...
    - ◆ Who only focused in on their 9 to 5 job...
    - ◆ Although fisherman started much earlier...

- **They were leaving everything...**

- They left who they were as people behind...
- To become a new person...

➤ **I Believe that is the calling of God on His people**

- **He is not calling us simply to maintain our standard of life...**

- Rather He is calling us to be radically different...
- To become a new person...
- With a new life purpose...

- **Maybe, this is why our churches in America are filled with stagnation**

- They are responding to a false gospel that tells them
- Follow Jesus and you go to heaven
- Just give up some bad things... look dignified... look happy... learn some stuff about God

- **When Jesus called His disciples...**

- He called them to a radically different lifestyle...
- He called them to GO!

➤ **The question is this...**

- In what way did they follow Him?
- To go from town to town... yes...
- To spread out to other areas... yes...

➤ **More importantly I think the main way in which they followed Him is overlooked...**

- People get so hung up on geography and possessions
- And they forget the **mission...**
- These guys actually **stayed** in Jerusalem for so much of their ministry...
- They went other places that is true...
- But often we see them in Jerusalem as well... Close to Home..

➤ **They followed Him by making disciples...**

- This is what we see in the book of Acts...
- We see Peter preaching to people in Jerusalem
- We see Peter visiting a gentile person Cornelius and telling him about Jesus
- We see this over and over again...

➤ **The disciples made Making Disciples of Jesus**

- Their number one priority
- They left everything so they could make disciples...

➤ **Do not overlook this...**

- It totally simplifies your mission...

- **We know the greatest thing we could do in life**
  - Is to bring glory to God
  - To reflect the image of our Creator.
- But right here in these pages, we see the how... And it is very Simple...
- **They Followed Jesus, by making disciples...**
  - 1) They Learned how
  - 2) They lived Godly and upright lives
  - 3) They made disciples
- **A little Time Ago... I shared the gospel with someone who got saved...**
  - Immediately upon getting saved...
  - That person said to me... I want to be a person that can read the Bible
  - And help other people understand it and know who God is...
    - That is the call God places on people...

## ❖ 6) To make disciples You must Know and Understand the Gospel

- **Let me put something else out there...**
  - I said first of all today “If making Disciples is not a priority in your life...
  - Then you are NOT following Jesus...
- **Now I will say this...**
  - 2) If you call yourself a Christian...
  - But you can not clearly explain the Gospel RIGHT NOW
    - Then you should be embarassed.
  - And there is no excuse...
  - I am an optimist by nature... and always give people the benefit of the doubt...
  - But there is no excuse here...
- **Embarassment:**
  - I know it is not something we like...
    - But, I remember in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade...
    - I had just moved to another school...
    - At my previous school we did not play very much basketball
    - But time came for P.E. my first year at my new school...
  - **I was terrible...**
    - They made us get in lines and dribble...
    - And then try to shoot... It was a terrible sight...
    - And I was so embarrassed... They were laughing at me...
    - But, it motivated me... I immediately got my Dad to get me a goal
    - I started practicing...
    - I did not want to be embarrassed again...
  - **How embarrassing would it be if I were to ask you...**
    - Stand up and share the gospel... and defend it...
    - Can you do it? And if you can... are you doing it?
- **At this point for most Christians... Not knowing the gospel is like:**
  - A heart surgeon that doesn't know how to sew or use a scalpel
  - A mechanic that doesn't know how to put gas in a car
- **Summary of the Gospel:**

## ❖ 7) Not a Rah Rah Sermon

- **Not meant to be a message to just pump us up**

- Rather... it was to cause us to look at our lives and our mission differently...
- **Because... now... Is where the rubber meets the road...**
  - What do we do now...?
  - So many of you probably feel unprepared or unable...
  - And that is ok...
- **So many of us are weak in our walk with Jesus**
  - And making disciples scares us to death... Therefore, let us prepare our hearts for the task
- **Opportunity:**
  - We have a couple of Discipleship groups going on now...
    - Men and Women... Get involved...
    - And look forward in your life to leading a group like this one day
    - These discipleship groups are:
      - ◆ To help those who know Christ, know Him better
      - ◆ To help those who do not know Him... Get to know Him
  - **Maybe there are 3 or 4 people at work or school you could disciple**
    - What do you do?
      - ◆ Write down their names
      - ◆ Pray for them
      - ◆ Engage them in conversations about the Gospel
      - ◆ Share the Gospel with them
      - ◆ Help them grow in their walk
      - ◆ Encourage them to make disciples
    - We Will come back to this...

## ❖ Guard Your Hearts

- **Proverbs 4:23**
  - Where there is some great wisdom from a Father to his son.
  - **Proverbs: 4:23 “Keep your heart with all vigilance for from it flows the springs of life”**
    - There is a connection between where the heart of the man is and the life that flows from this man....
    - If we want to make disciples... we must keep our heart...
  - **I have shared with you the example of Wayne Grudem**
    - He was the General Editor for the ESV bible...
    - And He got super busy and tired
    - And began to neglect his time alone with the Lord...
    - Justifying it by saying... I’m translating the Bible for 8 hours a day...
    - He and his wife began noticing a change in him
      - ◆ And he wrote these things down that were the result
      - ◆ *“Results of missing personal Bible reading and prayer time: Pride, talking about myself a lot, often inwardly hoping people will praise me, lack of love for friends, irritability, relationships with friends just stall or put on hold, general inward feeling of unease, unsettledness, hard to concentrate on scripture and prayer, self reliance, no peace.”*
- **I believe there is a direct correlation with making disciples**
  - And your personal walk with Jesus...
  - If your heart is divided away from Jesus toward sin...
  - Then this will be your work... or your effort...
- **How will you have time to make disciples of others...**
  - Satan is beating you at every turn...



- And you have to worry about getting yourself right...
- **3) Let me say this bold statement:**
  - Losing in your battle against sin is NO EXCUSE...
- **God has given us all we need to win the battle...**
  - How often do we talk about our struggle with sin...
  - I know I do... All the time...
  - **We Have Two Calls on Us...**
    - **The call of Wisdom and the Call of Foolishness**
    - **They are both crying for us to follow them**
  - **Sin comes along and says... Hey... Sin with me...**
    - We think about it for a second... then we say... Gosh... well if you asked I guess I will
    - We are giving in to sin...
    - We are being defeated by sin and our flesh
  - **We Learned Yesterday...**
    - That our outward actions are a result of what is loved in our hearts...
    - Think about that for a second...
    - The way we treat others, how we talk, what we think about, what we crave
    - These are results of what is in our hearts

❖ **So... What will be your response...**

- Will you actively be purposeful about making disciples...
- Or will you continue to sit on the side lines and be defeated...
- **Remember last week...**
  - We had that great theological writing by Paul
  - About our salvation, and how it happened and what it means
  - And how great it is...
  - Then He ends with...
    - ... we shall be saved by His life. More than that, we boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ...
    - expound

❖ **Invitation**

- Today is a little different...
- I am going to offer you some time to come and bow before the Lord...
- A time for you to confess your sin
- And ask for God's help in Being a disciple maker...
- Write down some names...