

Make Disciples! (Part 1) The Call to Discipleship (Luke 5:1-11)

Introduction: As followers and disciples of Christ, it's not just a few of us, or even just some of us, *but rather it is "all of us" who are called to the mission of "Making Disciples."* (Mt. 28:18-20) *Jesus gave us this great commission and it is recorded in all four gospels and in Acts. (MK. 16:15-16; Lk. 24:47-48; Jn. 20:21; Acts 1:8)*

So, over the next several weeks I want us to think about what it means and what it looks like to be about the business of *"Making Disciples."*

Discipleship is not just a churchy word or concept; *it is a lifestyle! In the Bible the word is used most often to refer to a follower of Jesus.* We are called to both, *be disciples (i.e.) followers of Christ and to make disciples, (i.e.) other followers of Christ.*

"Discipleship is a lifelong relationship with Jesus that makes us like Jesus as we do what He tells us to do as we share our lives with others."

The apostles are great illustrations of this. They followed Jesus as their master and teacher of the Christian faith, learning from His words and deeds and growing through practical hands-on training He gave them and then they spread this faith to others teaching them to do the same. Jesus is seeking people who are serious about coming after Him notice in our text...

I. There was a great crowd: (vv. 1-3)

It's vitally important for us see two important things about the crowd... (First),

A. Why there was a crowd is important to understand.

Jesus preached to great crowds, but His message was always to the individual; and He took time to help people personally and individually. *His real purpose was to call individuals to a transformed life and then send them out to share His message of forgiveness with others.*

B. Who was in the crowd is important to understand.

This crowd consisted of all kinds of people just like the church today...

1. Some of the kinds of people were...

a. Gathered to just look. Other kinds...

b. Gathered to listen. Still others...

c. Gathered to learn more...

As Jesus looked around for a way to preach to all the people, He zeroed in on some...

2. Specific people – There were some fishermen there, washing their fishing nets.

a. This was not the first time Jesus had zeroed in on these men. (Jn. 1:41; Mt. 4:18-22; Lk. 4:40-44)

b. This is no less than at least the third time Jesus will zero in on these men.

Many times, we encounter things that hinder or distract us from fully following Christ and answering the call to discipleship. *These fishermen knew Jesus, believed Jesus, but they had not yet committed to completely follow Jesus...*

c. Jesus now enters Peter's boat –

I just want to point out a couple of minor details that aren't really that minor.

1. Jesus picked Peter's boat –

2. Peter wasn't in the boat –

3. Peter has to stop what he is doing and go back to the boat–

4. But Peter also knew who Jesus was – Jesus is focused individually on Peter and these fishermen. Notice how this moment goes when Jesus finished speaking to the crowd.

II. There was a great catch: (vv. 4-8)

A. Jesus asks Peter to launch out to the deep and put out his nets for a catch. (v.5)

B. Jesus asked Peter to let down his net(s) for a catch.

C. Peter's response is unfortunately is too often much like ours (v.5) He calls Jesus "master" as they commonly did, recognizing His authority (but then they didn't do what He said). When he obeys the Lord – the blessing is too great to handle! (v.6 -7)

D. Peter realized Jesus was more than just a preacher with healing power – (v.8) (Gen. 18:27; Job 42:5-6; Isa 6:5)

Isn't it funny how amazed we are that when the Lord takes control of a situation, He can even use our weakness and lack of faith for His glory if we simply obey!

While Peter and his companions were amazed at the fish... this was not at all what Jesus was focused on.

III. There was a greater call: (vv.9-11)

Let's make some observations about the call to discipleship here:

1. Jesus' focus wasn't on the fish, it was on the fishermen. *Jesus wants us trusting in the authority of God's Word and faithfully following the Lord in obedience. This will always bring blessings!*

2. God wants our trust and focus to be on Him - *Jesus didn't need these men to catch those fish, He included them in a great catch so they could see what He could do for them and to issue a greater call to follow Him and become fishers of men.*

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3. Jesus didn't take them in a completely different direction than what they were used to – *He came right into their ordinary world (He used the familiar; boats, nets, fish to reveal His glory.)*

4. Jesus asked to go deeper and let down their nets. *Today, you may be teetering on the edge – I know the Lord wants me to go deeper in my walk and commitment to and with Him. Let me remind you, He is the Lord of all, and He is in this with you – you can trust Him to lead you and bless you.*

5. Jesus can always do exceedingly above and beyond what we would ask or think (Eph. 3:20) *If you will lay aside your skepticism long enough to let down your nets, God will amaze you with His ability to fill them.*

6. Jesus waits for us to follow Him before He reveals to us what He can and will do. Peter never would have had the revelation of who Jesus was and what He could do for Peter and the others until he obeyed the command of the Lord.

7. The Lord desires today for us let go of what may be holding us back from following Him (v.11) If we want to see the Lord's power through our weakness, we have to answer the call to become a true disciple of Jesus.