

C A L L E D

GOD'S GREATER PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE

Week 1: Called to Follow

Have you ever felt God calling you to do something that went against your normal instincts? What did you do? What was the result?

Read Luke 5:1-11

Jesus' instructions to Simon in v4 were counter-intuitive in several ways. One, they were given by a carpenter rabbi to an experienced fisherman. Two, the type of fishing Simon had been doing was done at night, perhaps when the fish could not see the net and were more likely to be caught. Three, their fishing in that same spot had been unfruitful just hours prior.

What was the result when Simon followed Jesus' instructions, which seemed counter-intuitive, but that he followed just because Jesus said to? What would he have missed if he had declined, because he didn't think it made sense?

What was Simon's response to Jesus after the miraculous catch of fish?
Why do you think he responded in this way?

What might it mean to fish for people? How can we follow Simon's lead in how we set about 'catching' them?

Things to consider: How did he know who to fish for and where? Were his tactics gentle or aggressive? What condition were the fish in when they were brought into the boat...were they wounded by Simon in the process? Was it something he did alone? How can we apply all of that to how we draw others in toward Jesus?

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Read: Matthew 16:21-27

What was the result of Peter setting his mind on the things of man, instead of the things of God? Can you think of a time in your own life where your mind was set on the things of man? What was the result?

The statement Jesus made in v24 would have been startling, to say the least. The cross was a very public, very painful ticket to death. The modern equivalent might say something like, "To be my disciple, you must turn away from your own desires, carry your electric chair and imitate me.

What are the practical implications of denying yourself and taking up your cross? What does that look like in your life? Is this a one-time or never-ending choice? Why?

The concept in v25 sounds upside down...what do you think Jesus means here?

Make a list of the instructions Jesus gives through v.24-27, then make a contrary list of what each of the opposite commands would be. Picture what life would look like on both sides. Which side does your life more closely match up with? Pray that God would help you align more closely with the side of Jesus and holy sacrifice, that ultimately leads to life and glory.

Prayer:

Father, thank you for Jesus and the call that He has put on our lives. Thank you for the example he set for the disciples, and for us, of how to bring people to Him. May we obey like Simon when the Spirit calls us to act. Help us to practice denying ourselves and following you, so we can see and experience the true fullness of a relationship with you. And may that fullness in you draw others in as well. In the name of Jesus, amen.

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