

The Rock: 01-29-2022**A year with the Master**

First reading: Isaiah 6:1-7

Title: Building the team

Scripture: Luke 5: 1-11 (black bible Pg.)

Theme:

Never find the most qualified, don't settle for the yes men and yes women, making sure you surround yourself with people you have to repeat yourself to daily, and perhaps you'll have a team as good as the one Jesus put together.

Introduction:

"When Jesus Christ calls a man, He bids him, Come and die." -Dietrich Bonhoeffer

A quote that sounds a bit morbid, depressing, and almost as if it's a call to martyrdom. For some, perhaps that is true. It certainly was for Bonhoeffer.

Yet, for all, it is actually a calling to the fullest life a human being can have.

In being called to, and by Jesus, we die to that old self and begin to live the life God created for us to live.

We see it actually, in these men Jesus called together as He began His ministry.

It's interesting as we unpack the life of Jesus, to remember, God could have done things anyway He wished. So, what that means is He did.

He chose to become like us, skin and bones, subject to success and failure, to the hurts and the joys of life and all it offers along the way.

It also means, that in the assignment of bringing salvation to the world, He chose to assemble a team instead of going it alone.

It begs the question, then, in my mind anyway: Did He have to do that? Answer: No. They why did He? Answer He wanted to.

It is one of the many examples left to us that we are far better together, and that life itself isn't meant to be a solo project.

Chuck Swindoll makes this simple observation when looking at the calling of the first disciples:

"He calls us to work and He uses our efforts to accomplish His purposes."

-Swindoll's Living insights Pg. 134-135

In other words: God's purposes in this world seem to happen because within our obedience -*We do the things He asks -He ordains them.*

The Story:

Based on the history of humanity, and not to be anything but honest, as I know me, that is not really the best business move, nor is it the smartest and effective strategy of moving the plan forward.

But here we are and that is the negative aspect and very shaky promise of God's design and plan. Something that we have to see, and strangely as we look at the positive, the upside as we unpack this text today.

It seems that the positive is exactly the same as the negative. That in obedience - we do things which He has ordained for us to do, in obedience.

Given our study last week, we have to recognize that we are here because those who have gone before were faithfully obedient to do what they were called to.

They did not fall, fail, and run. Rather they held the line and stayed, they trusted, they prayed and they did.

Jesus, coming off of His announcement of ministry and prompt rejection in Nazareth, has simply moved onto His next assignment.

We find it, if you back up on the page of your Bible to the end of chapter four, starting at verse 31, that He did not let failure (at least as we define it) define Him. He goes about His call, heals a man with a demon and word begins to spread.

Something to remember here and to observe: Jesus did not go about His ministry operating in secret, trying to do everything as though only a select few special people would get His insight to get to see these miracles.

No, that type of secrecy and manipulation of the circumstances and facts are reserved for false teachers, prophets and charlatans.

We discover, and I leave this for you to read later, that in 4: 38-40, That Jesus at some level knew Simon, and that He was probably teaching out of or at least near Simon's house in Capernaum.

We see that He heals Simon's mother-in-law, as well as many others. Then He sets about preaching the good news, doing so after some quiet time and rest:

-Luke 4: 42a (ESV)

"And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place."

A pattern which He would keep His entire ministry. Again, an example for us that we can easily miss if we aren't careful, and one we need in our lives.

This pattern of Sabbath rest. I am not talking about a legalistic locking down and observance of a day. Yet, perhaps I am.

However, we really must see that there is a pattern taught to us in the Scriptures of a "Biblical rhythm of rest".

If Jesus took the time to recognize that God is in control, and He commanded that we rest, and Jesus did so, we should learn from that and also learn to follow that pattern.

For it is much more about recognizing that we are not the ones holding the universe and life together, God is.

If we are going to make it to the finish line of life in God's call for us, we cannot run this marathon as though it were a 100-meter dash.

So here we are, at the shores of Lake Galilee, where it has been discovered in its unique design, that with its many quiet inlets and beaches, if one were so

inclined, and it seems Jesus was, you could create your own little off-shore amphitheater.

A way in which you could be mor easily heard, then if you were in the middle of a crowd:

-Luke 5:1-3 (ESV)

"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, and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. 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."

This is just what is happening here as the crowds continue to press in against Jesus, it is becoming far harder to talk and to teach.

So, He improvises, as He sees Peter and his guys cleaning up after a long night on the lake.

Knowing that the best fishing happens on that lake, at night, most men would pack up their boats and head out at sundown. Simon, knowing the lake as well, if not better than most is now back on shore,

empty handed except for nets and frustration.

Think on this as we look at the text. Peter had parked the boats, unloaded the equipment, was washing the nets and probably thinking of going home to sleep.

Jesus comes up to him and says: "Hey, listen, it's awful crowded on the beach, I need a floating pulpit, your boat will work perfect, come on let's go."

Oddly enough, it seems, and without complaint, he puts Jesus in the boat, sets the boat a bit off shore, anchor's down and Jesus sits and begins to teach.

Not a bad thought or scene, is it? It's one we can certainly get our minds around. Perhaps we could try it some Sunday.

Head out to Kill-Kare, at that little shale inlet right out on the point. It's nothing we'd ever think to do, but here we are in the middle of Jesus' common practice of "Where ever the crowds gather, I will be in the midst of them."

We have no idea what Jesus taught, Luke doesn't tell us, but that's fine because that's not the point of Luke's narrative here.

Simon is, along with his brother and James and John.

The obedience - faith challenge:

-Luke 5:4 (ESV)

"And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

"Listen Simon, before you put back to dock, head on out to the deep section and toss your nest out again."

Two things are wrong with that:

One- Jesus ain't a fisherman, He's a carpenter.

Two- The heat of the day meant that the fish are not looking for food and are most likely all the way to the bottom, perhaps deeper than the nets will drag.

But in verse five, we see two things from Peter.

-Luke 5:5 (ESV)

"And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets."

A statement of fact? Perhaps. Or perhaps a grouchy response from a Gloucesterman from the north shore kindly saying:

"That's really a stupid thing to do. I know the lake and fish better than you."

I don't know, but I leave that with you to think through. Because more important than whatever attitude he may have, is his second statement of obedience.

In spite of the request! Peter says: "But at your word."

This is a faith statement, which will prove itself to be a faith-building moment because of what happens next:

-Luke 5:6-7 (ESV)

"And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. 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."

This is an important application for us! Things don't always make sense to us, but because of the relationship we have with God through Jesus, we can trust and obediently exercise this type of faith.

Jesus always meets us where we are at, not to leave us there, but rather to show us and grow us to where He desires us to be. A quote I found helpful in my studies:

"Things to remember when you are in over your head. Jesus uses the familiar to do the incredible. Jesus met the disciples on their turf. He didn't take them to the edge of heaven. He worked in their familiar scene, the fishing world. He got into their place of work, the boat. He had them use their nets and their skills. He engaged them in their trade. But in using the familiar, He lifted their eyes from the commonplace to glimpse what could be accomplished through His power."

-Swindoll's living insights Pg. 135

Simon Peter (Don't miss Luke's use of both names now) recognizes Jesus for who He really is. He's not just an empowered Rabbi with a special anointing.

Rather, He is worthy of all praise and worship. Peter sees here in verse 8:

-Luke 5:8 (ESV)

"But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

the very thing Isaiah saw in chapter 6 of his writings:

-Isaiah 6:5 (ESV)

"And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I

dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

Acknowledging that He was in God's presence, that he recognized his sinful state, and that he didn't deserve to be there, BUT he was there non the less.

The beauty for all of those who have found themselves there, and for us today, is in the recognition of our need, and that based on what we see here in Luke and in Isaiah, we are NOT cast off or thrown to the side.

Rather, Jesus looks at Simon Peter, as well as Andrew and James and John -four obedient Jewish men, and tells them:

-Luke 5:10-11 (ESV)

"...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." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him."

The doors were opened because of the practical act of catching fish:

-Luke 5:9 (ESV)

"For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken..."

The thing for us to see in the calling of the first disciples, is not in the super natural miracles of God, so much of which always caught their attention. Although it was at least that.

Rather, to me, it is seen in the intensely practical way in which Jesus functioned. He took the gifting they had -Fishermen. He used that to show that God will work through you -because He has gifted you- to advance His plan and purposes.

Think of it this way:

"I'm calling you to do what you already do. However, the strategic objective is no longer fish boys, but it is men. It's women, children, it's my Image bearers who are lost and need to be found.

"From now on you will catch men."

With this I am done:

Jesus, we saw this morning didn't just show up on the scene and then these guys all took a vote and decided it would be cool to go on an adventure.

No, Jesus was building relationships with them right from the very start. His mission and its objective was and is one which takes a team, even today.

And so it begins -He has His first four.