

# Jesus' Ministry in Galilee – Calling First Disciples

Goldstone Church – 21-May-17 10:30am

Luke 5:1-11

## Introduction

We're continuing our series in the book of Luke, looking at the life and early ministry of Jesus in Galilee, focusing on how Jesus met and spoke with different types of people.

As Christians, we are followers and disciples of Jesus Christ. This passage is relevant as it shows the characteristics of being a disciple.

## **LISTEN**

(Luke 5:1-3)

*"He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat." (Luke 5:3)*

The first process in Simon Peter becoming a disciple of Jesus was that he listened to what Jesus had to say. Disciples of Jesus love to listen to God's word.

*"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." (Psalm 119:105).*

*"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)*

Today, as Christians, we need to organise our busy lives and reserve time to listen to God's word.

## **OBEY**

(Luke 5:4-7)

*"Simon answered, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.'" (Luke 5:5)*

Notice how quickly obedience appears in Peter's process towards being a disciple; his obedience is simply, "*because you say so*". Having listened to what Jesus had been teaching, Peter is ready to obey Jesus - even when it doesn't make sense.

Obedience is not a popular word for many people, but obeying Jesus is part of a love-relationship with Him.

*"If you love me, keep my commands." (John 14:15).*

*"And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love." (2 John 1:6)*

Walking in love with Jesus is expressed through obedience; obeying what Jesus says is an outward evidence of being His loving disciple.

Today, as Christians, we need to focus on expressing our loving-obedience for Jesus; choosing to follow God's way. It is putting into practice what Jesus has been teaching; walking the walk of a disciple of Jesus Christ.

## **SUBMIT**

(Luke 5:8-10)

*"When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!'" (Luke 5:8)*

The next stage in Peter's process towards being a disciple is being aware of his own sinfulness. (The word that Peter uses for Lord is a title given to God, the Messiah.) Peter realises he is in the presence of a holy God; he is painfully aware of his own sinfulness and submits / bows before the holiness of Jesus.

Submission is also not a popular word for many people, but this is the realisation that Jesus is the Holy, Son of God - and our lives are tainted by our selfish agendas.

*"Such a high priest truly meets our need - one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens." (Hebrews 7:26)*

*"God made him who had no sin to be a sin offering for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Corinthians 5:21).*

Today, as Christians, we need to regularly submit and confess our sinfulness before God. We all let God down in some way and we need to humbly bow before Jesus; to acknowledge Him afresh as our Lord and Saviour.

## **TRAVEL**

(Luke 5:11)

*"So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him." (Luke 5:11)*

The theme of 'following Jesus' appears regularly in the Gospels: 17 times in Matthew, 9 times in Mark, 9 times in Luke, 11 times of John.

Following, travelling and being with Jesus was (and is) a fundamental characteristic of being a disciple. Peter and his friends put their past life and aspirations behind them and stepped out in faith with Jesus. Even though the journey with Jesus would be costly, having listened to what Jesus said, and having seen Jesus' holiness first-hand, they still followed and travelled with Jesus.

*"A religion that gives nothing, costs nothing, and suffers nothing, is worth nothing." (Martin Luther)*

With Jesus, we have a relationship that leads to everything (eternal life), costs the price of taking up our cross, yet is worth everything.

*"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12).*

Today, as Christians, we need to remain focused on following Jesus so that we do not stumble around in the darkness, but live and move with the eternal light of the world.

## **CONCLUSION**

When Jesus went to the shores of the Sea of Galilee that day and saw the fishermen, it is possible that He saw people that were L.O.S.T. --

**LOST** physically, having worked all night.

**LOST** economically, having no fish to sell.

**LOST** spiritually, having lived sinful lives.

**LOST** emotionally, having no expectation of the coming of the Messiah.

Yet, in their distress, even though they were **LOST**, Jesus went to them and lovingly led them to a new and an eternal life.

They **L**istened and heard God's Word.

In response, they **O**beyed God's Word.

Aware of their sinfulness, they **S**ubmitted to God's Word.

And they **T**ravelled with and followed Jesus - the Word made flesh.

As Christians, as modern-day disciples and followers of Jesus here in Hove, our challenge is to do the same: to Listen, Obey, Submit and Travel with Jesus.

*"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life.'" (John 14:6a)*

Furthermore, as we Listen, Obey, Submit and Travel with Jesus, we need to be ready and expect people to notice that there is something happening in our lives. Then, when people ask, we need to gently and appropriately, show and share the love that we have for Jesus with those that we meet.

In v.10, Jesus says, "*Don't be afraid*", meaning 'Stop being fearful'.

Jesus was calming a very real existing fear.

Jesus says, "*Don't be afraid*" because, as His disciple, He is with us every moment of every day, in every conversation and circumstance.

This week, let us step out with Jesus - in *confidence*.

**AMEN**