

The Gospel According to Luke- Part 2

CALLING DISCIPLES

PART 2

Into Deeper Waters

READ MARK 1:16-20, LUKE 5:11

INTRODUCTION

When we are called by Jesus to follow Him, there is little choice and yet, we have varying degrees of how much baggage we carry with us on the journey. In these two passages we see that when Jesus called Peter, James and John (and Andrew), there was a complete abandonment of their earthly possessions. There was no hesitation to “forsake all” and follow Him by these men. They had successful businesses, they had family, they had lives and they chose to eliminate everything that wasn’t Jesus in this moment. It was not an irresponsible abandoning of responsibilities but an abandonment of anything that was not Christ.

Often, there are times that we choose to carry with us many of life’s cares and worries. There are even times that we choose to focus on those cares and worries more than our relationship with Christ. It is easy to get overwhelmed with the idea of laying everything down, “forsaking all”, and choosing to follow Christ. There are responsibilities that we must focus on when it comes to families, financial obligations and even social standings. These cannot be avoided in our modern day but, we must not let them overtake our relationship to Christ and what He calls us to. Which is the most important aspect in our entire being.

The noise of our modern lives can often drown out the calling of the Lord. We get focused on what it means to be successful or what it looks like to not “need” anything and so, we pursue financial security or finding a spouse or doing good deeds to help those less fortunate. These are not inherently bad things but, again, when they overpower the calling God has on us, to glorify Him and to serve Him, then it is impossible to gain peace that surpasses understanding. It is impossible to please God without faith. Having faith means that we will trust that He will guide our steps. That He will take care of us as we serve Him. That He is God of all and that He loves us.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think these men were so willing to drop everything and follow Christ? Do you think that they had a choice or were they obligated to by some other, outside force?
2. What is the difference, if any, between our modern day of living and theirs? Would it have been easier for us to drop everything back then? Or, was it just as hard?
3. Why do you think it was important that they didn't try to continue making a living at fishing AND follow Jesus? What was the purpose and what can we learn from that in our own lives?
4. What are the responsibilities that you should be laying at the feet of Jesus? What is He calling you to give up so that you can have a closer, more impactful relationship with Him?
5. Are there things that need to be "turned off" in your life? What are they? How are you going to take steps to make sure the noise of this world does not overpower the voice of the Lord calling you to Him?

WRAP UP

Following Jesus demands sacrifice. That is not meant to be easy. It is not meant to be fun. It costs us. Sometimes, it can cost us everything to follow Him. What we have to do is to determine whether or not that cost is worth it and if we will answer the call that He gives. The way that we can do this is to fellowship with other believers and to seek Him out so that we can better serve Him as well as those around us. "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face. And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace."