

Luke 5:1-11 The Beginning of Discipleship

A disciple is an apprentice who is submitted to a teacher with an aim to resemble the teacher. A disciple of Jesus is a life-apprentice who is submitted to Jesus with the aim to resemble Jesus' holy life as a witness for Him. Where does discipleship begin? Discipleship begins with:

- 1) The initiative of Jesus Christ (5:1-11).
 - a) No accident that it was Simon's boat (cf. 4:38)
 - b) Jesus' purpose to reveal Himself to Simon (v. 4).
 - c) Jesus' call, not Peter's volunteerism (v. 10).
 - d) compare John 3:1-8 "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. . . . The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."
 - e) God is sovereign over our salvation.
- 2) Hearing the Word of the Master (5:1-3).
 - a) "The crowd was pressing in on Him to hear the Word of God."
 - b) The best seat in the house was reserved for Simon Peter (v. 3).
 - c) Jesus arranged an amphitheater for the clear hearing of the Word: "He sat down and taught the people from the boat" (v. 3).
 - d) Philip Ryken—"So for anyone who wants to follow Jesus, the ear is the most important part of the body."
 - e) How is your Bible intake?
- 3) Obeying the Word of the Master (5:4-5).
 - a) Jesus instructs Simon in Simon's area of expertise (vv. 4-5).
 - b) Obedience to Jesus is "whole-life."
 - c) Have you relegated Jesus' authority to a safe "religious" area of life?
- 4) Being humbled by the majesty of the Lord (5:6-10a).
 - a) This miracle struck home, perhaps because these fishermen knew what was possible, humanly speaking (6-7).
 - b) Peter abhors himself because he gains a clearer view of Jesus.
 - i) "Lord" instead of "Master" indicates new insight into the person of Jesus.
 - ii) "I am a sinful man." Better translation—"I am a man—a sinner."—Most people did not regard themselves as sinners, as this term was reserved for those whose sin made them socially unacceptable to the mainstream, such as tax collectors, prostitutes, thieves, and such.
 - iii) "Depart from me."—The realization of Christ's holiness and our sinfulness reveals how unworthy we are to be in His presence and provokes terror in the sinner (cf. v. 10 "Do not be afraid.>").
 - c) If you had to rate the condition of your soul apart from Jesus would it be: a) excellent; b) very good; c) good; d) fair; e) poor; or f) ruined?
 - d) The higher we rate ourselves the lower we esteem the grace of God. The lower we rate ourselves the higher we esteem the grace of God.
- 5) Being repurposed by the Lord (5:10b).
 - a) "Do not be afraid," indicates the Jesus will not depart, leaving Simon to wallow in his sinfulness. He will repurpose him as a disciple.
 - b) "From now on you will be catching men."—This is not a request; it is a redefinition.
 - i) Not every Christian is a gifted evangelist, but we all share in the task of making disciples.
 - ii) As Simon and the sons of Zebedee just witnessed, it is God who gives the increase, we just cast the nets (cf. 1 Cor. 3:5-7).
 - c) In the Teacher-disciple relationship Jesus has the authority and ability to redefine you. You are still uniquely "you." Your conformity to Christ is not a generic brand of humanity. It is a redemption of your whole person being restored to the glory of God (cf. Col. 3:10; Rom. 8:29; Gal. 2:20).
 - d) Are you resting in the grace of Christ? Are you bearing witness to others of His grace?
- 6) Following the Lord (5:11).
 - a) "They left everything"—Christ does not call everyone to leave their careers, their homes, and wealth. But He does claim ownership of us so that He demands control of all that we are and have.

- b) “and followed Him.”—This following is a full submission of the will to His will (Luke 9:57-62).
- c) Who is setting the agenda for your days?

Are you a disciple of Jesus Christ? Do you need to return to the beginning?