



Life Group Study Notes

"Fishers of men"

Pastor James Lowe – June 23rd, 2019

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- What is something you are passionate about?
- When did you discover your passion and how did your passion catch your attention?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Luke 5:1-11 One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. 2 He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. 3 He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. 4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." 5 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." 6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. 7 So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. 8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" 9 For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, 10 and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." 11 So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

In the time of Jesus every Jewish boy would learn the Torah, and study until they reached a certain age. They were then tested to see if they would be able to become a scribe, or a teacher of the law. The best of these who displayed even more understanding of the scriptures than even the scribes would go on to become Rabbis. If a young man didn't qualify to be a teacher, or a scribe then they would take on the profession of their fathers'. These were the young men that Jesus chose as His disciples. He found them when they were fishing, and called them to become fishers of men. When a young man sought to become a rabbi, they would have passed all of the tests and would search out a rabbi that they thought was a good example for them to follow. They would then be tested by the rabbi. Not only did they have to have the entire Old testament memorized, but they had to be able to talk about the text in a meaningful and

applicable way. Most of our pastors couldn't even accomplish such a task. If the rabbi believed that the young man could become like him in every way then the rabbi would take on that young man as a disciple. This disciple when then invite the rabbi into his home and he would then do everything his rabbi did.

Jesus completely flipped this practice on its head. Jesus came and chose young men to become His disciple who had gone home to do the profession of their father. Simon who would later be renamed Peter did not even meet the basic qualifications to become a scribe. Everything else is exactly what one would have expected if they were called to become a disciple of a rabbi. They left everything and followed Jesus. The remarkable thing about this story isn't the response of the disciples, but rather the decision of Jesus to take someone who appeared to have no great potential and call them to turn the world upside down. Maybe you feel like there is nothing special about you. You don't meet the qualifications of the world, or meet the expectations of those around you. God is inviting you to follow Him. No one who puts their trust in God will ever be put to shame. (**Romans 10:11 ESV**)

The scriptures tell us that many are called, but few are chosen. The question we must ask ourselves today is that when Jesus comes will we leave everything behind and follow Him just as the disciples did?

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- What are some experiences you have had that made you feel unqualified?
- Is there something you believe God is calling you to add your time, talents, or resources to?
- What are some encouraging words you have heard that has helped you overcome these challenges?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Pray that God would help us understand His call over our lives.
- Pray that God would give us His Holy Spirit to empower us to follow through.