

Discipleship: Following Christ

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For recordings and copies of previous class materials: <http://www.fpceadulthooddiscipleship.com/>

**Our mission as a church is to make disciples who are growing in knowing Christ, following Christ, and serving Christ.**

Circling back to last week: *In what ways did you grow in "Serving Christ" through praying for and/or extending hospitality to someone?*

Listen and reflect to Luke 5:1-11 as it is read aloud: Who and "where" are the people in this story? Where might you be in the story?

<sup>1</sup> One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. <sup>2</sup> He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." <sup>5</sup> 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." <sup>6</sup> When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" <sup>9</sup> For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, <sup>10</sup> 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." <sup>11</sup> So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

*Notes on Luke 5:1-11:*

- Following Jesus is a lifelong journey... and the journey has seasons.
- Look at the different people and how they respond to Jesus:
  - **Crowd:** Crowds "show up to see the show". He didn't choose disciples from the crowd.
  - **Fishermen:** Jesus uses tired, unsuccessful and "unqualified" people, to carry out his work and mission. He used these fishermen to change the world [CW2].
  - **Peter**
    - Jesus "saw and redefined Simon as fisher of people": more than "a sinful man".
    - Peter and the others had washed their nets and had finished their all-night shift. But Peter listened to Jesus and saw him for who he was, and obeyed: Following Jesus isn't convenient and doesn't always "feel good," or even make sense.

*Pause for reflection: Where are you? In what ways are you "in the crowd"? "In the boat"?*

Personal sharing and concluding thoughts:

- Following is stepping into a mindset that "I am part of God's mission."
- Sharing personal story

- Jesus teaches the crowd but uses those willing to follow.
  - Our goal: Be always looking and listening for Jesus – wherever we are. Pray: “Lord if its you, tell me to come to you.”
  - Hearing and seeing opens us to getting out of the crowd. . . and into the boat
  - Sometimes this means stepping into spaces where we’re not in control
    - John Ortberg: “Without risk there is no fear. Without fear, there is no faith.”
    - Without faith, there is no following.
- How do we actually start to surrender control? **Seeing** differently, **hearing** differently, **trusting** Jesus.
  - The more you take a risk, the more you sacrifice control and the more you are willing to give up. . . but your faith is built up and you’re more likely to see/hear/trust him more.
- Michael Junior on “Recognizing/Hearing the Father’s Voice”
  - “Be still and hear the Father’s voice. Just be still and open your eyes.” That’s where it all starts. . .

*Small Group Discussion:*

- *Where are you? In what ways are you “in the crowd”? In what ways are you “in the boat”?*
- *What were the fishermen asked to give up? And what has it looked like for you? What could it look like for you?*

Practice to live into:

- Personal
  - The skill of **exhortation**: I Thessalonians 5:12-14
    - <sup>12</sup> Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. <sup>13</sup> Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.
    - <sup>14</sup> And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone.
  - Exhortation means speaking/acting specifically into the situation of:
    - The want tos: Those working hard and need praise (acknowledge)
    - The won’t dos: Those who are idle and/or disruptive (warn)
    - The can’t dos: Those who are disheartened and weak (encourage)
  - We all need people to be “Jeanne” for us, and vice versa
  - Identify someone and pray about them this week
- As a church
  - **We encourage all to be in a small group to help you see, hear, trust.**
    - **Most/all SG’s will be open during Lent**

Other next steps:

- Continue practices in Scripture and extending hospitality.
- Be a part of a winter Adult Ed class
  - Bible Class: The Gospel of Mark taught by Rev. Henry Coates in the Parlor
  - Building Strong Lasting Relationships taught by Judith Hylton in Room 213
  - Mission Class: facilitated by Caryl Weinberg and others in the Dining Room
    - To get ahead for this class, you can purchase and start reading *Muslims, Christians and Jesus* (by Carl Medearis).
  - Sunday Morning Forum taught by Richard Bell in Room 206