Luke 5 – "Following Jesus Changes Everything"

Some context on Luke 5:

- First calling of the disciples **(Simon, James, and John)**
- We aren't told much about Jesus' relationship with these men, but we do know that Jesus had recently been in Simon's house and even healed his mother-in-law… Luke 4:38-39
- **Three** miracles on display for the disciples in this chapter

Food for thought:

When did you give your life to following Jesus? What has changed about you since then? Personality, values, outlook on life, etc.

Following Jesus changes our Purpose (Luke 5:1-11)

- Up until this moment, being a fisherman was the men's **identity**
  - Their purpose was to fish
- Peter had seen firsthand the power of Jesus - he had a **testimony**
- Peter took Jesus at **His word** (v.5)
  - What a statement of faith for Peter!
  - We can take Jesus at His word, too
- Much like many of us would have, there was fear seeing the **holiness** of Jesus (v.8)
- When you choose to follow Jesus, there isn't room for fear
- We can work hard on purpose, but it is different to work for a purpose

Is my identity in what I do, or who I follow?

Following Jesus changes our Perspective (Luke 5:12-16)

- "…a man who had leprosy all over him"
  - This man had no true hope of improvement
  - Ancient practice was to announce that you were a leper to avoid accidental contact with others
- Think about what the disciples knew about leprosy up until this point
  - Avoid touching a leper to avoid being contaminated
  - Keep at least 6 feet from the sickness
  - This man, by ancient practice, shouldn't be allowed near Jesus
- Jesus reached out HIS hand towards the leper (v. 13)
  - Instead of **sickness** overcoming over Jesus, **holiness** overcame over the man
- No one is too **unclean** to enter the presence of Jesus and be cleansed
  - Are we seeking Jesus to heal or to cleanse?

        - The leper's life has been changed forever. He was not only healed, but cleansed
- The disciples perspective about the unclean, those deemed unworthy, and those far from Jesus changed in this moment
    - How often do we dismiss those as "too far gone"?
    - Lord, give us eyes to see people as you see them!

When I think someone is too far to be reached by Jesus, is that thinking too highly of myself, or too little of Christ?

Following Jesus changes our Priorities (Luke 5:27-31)

- **Priorities of a tax collector**
    - Treachery, collecting more than what was owed, and scamming others
    - Tax collectors were seen as the **ultimate sinner**
    - Levi had to have a comfortable life, and he left everything (v.28)

Are my priorities in life like that of a tax collector, or like that of a former tax collector, now disciple?

- **Priorities of a Pharisee**
    - Pharisee's thought of themselves as the "good guys"
    - "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" (v.30)
    - This was against the grain… holy with the unholy, good with the wicked, and lawful with the unjust

Am I more concerned with what others think, or am I concerned with reaching the lost?

- **Priorities of Jesus**
    - "It is not those who are healthy who need a doctor, but those who are sick" (v.31)
    - Jesus came to call sinners, not the righteous
    - This is more of a heart check for the pharisees… those who leave and follow him wind up as a friend of Jesus

Are my intentions to follow rules, or follow Jesus?

Take Away:

- Following Jesus changes our **purpose, perspective, and priorities**
- Dropping your net and following Jesus is a **daily practice**
- Following is an **ongoing transformation**

Discussion Questions

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1. Between the 3 miracles, what stands out to you the most?
2. What has changed in your life since you began to follow Jesus?
3. How can you allow Jesus to change your purpose, perspective, or priorities this week?