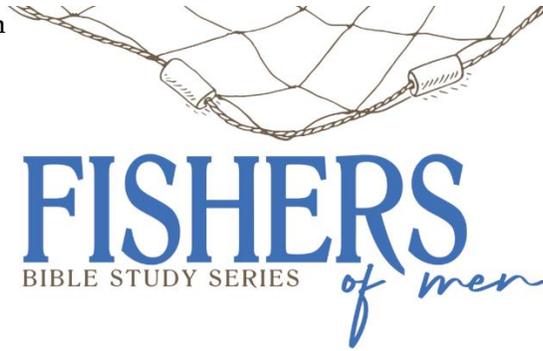


Pentecostal Assembly Church
 Pastor Josh Anderson
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The Calling

The plan to build the Kingdom was evidenced right from the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Of all the ways God could have chosen to grow the church, He designated to call out of this world "fishers of men."

Matthew 4:19, Mark 1:17

In this first lesson we will determine that this story, the calling of these disciples, is intrinsic to the work of God's people today. We must recognize the calling and respond that we might be the witness that God designed for us to be.

The Lord called His disciples through a unique process. The calling of God is an individualistic experience guided by the direction of the Lord.

We will examine in detail these 11 verses of Luke's account of the first disciples called by Jesus for revelation of God's pattern, plan and purpose in us.

The Calling is Originated in the Experience of Knowing Christ

Our calling has its beginning by way of experience.

Luke 5:3

And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.

Jesus made His way into Simon's ship.

Jesus asked room in Simon's life/agenda/schedule.

Right there out of that invited place, Jesus began to teach.

In the remarkable experience of our encounters with Christ, He engages to come to us first.

Experiencing Christ through the invitation to come to your life/house/ship.

Experiencing Christ through teaching.

Experiencing Christ through relationship.

Experiencing Christ through a calling.

Matthew 4:19 *"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."*

The response to this experience of encountering Jesus Christ

1. The appropriate/effective response will be rooted in great reverence.
 - **Luke 5:8** *When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.*
2. The appropriate/effective response will be rooted in wonder at the miraculous.
 - **Luke 5:9** *For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken:*

Jesus responds to their reverence and amazement

Luke 5:10 *And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, **Fear not**; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.*

The response of reverence and wonder will be returned as an incredible gift of the calling of God... FEAR NOT

The Call of Isaiah

- **An experience**
Isaiah 6:4 *And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.*
- **A reverence**
Isaiah 6:5 *Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.*
- **The miraculous**
Isaiah 6:6 *Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:*
Isaiah 6:7 *And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.*
- **Isaiah's Commission from the Lord**
Isaiah 6:8 *Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.*

– Free from fear Isaiah said, “HERE I AM; SEND ME.” I will go, I can do it!

The Reason for the Calling

The reason for the calling is found in the very first verse of the story...

Luke 5:1 “...as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God.”

That the Word of God might be revealed with power to transform lives!

The purpose/goal of the church simply defined.

Romans 10:13 *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

The authentication that the church is really connected to its purpose.

Romans 10:14 *How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?*

Romans 10:15 *And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*

The teaching of the Word of God is the empowering element of faith and thereby salvation.

Romans 10:17 *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

A Saving Equation: Teaching of the Word + Faith by hearing + Obedience by faith = Salvation in calling on that name.

The call to teach the Word of God is fundamental for “whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord” to be saved.

The Word of God is displayed as active power.

Genesis Chapter 1 records “And God said,” followed by the manifestation of that which was spoken coming to pass...

“Let there be light” **Genesis 1:3**

“Let there be a firmament” **Genesis 1:6**

“Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together” **Genesis 1:9**

“Let the dry land appear” **Genesis 1:9**

“Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: **and it was so.**” **Genesis 1:11**

The Word of God is like a lion. You don't have to defend a lion. All you have to do is let the lion loose, and the lion will defend itself. *Charles Spurgeon*

“The Word of the Lord came” 92 occurrences in the Old Testament
“Came the Word of the Lord” 17 occurrences in the Old Testament

Isaiah 55:10 *For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:*

Isaiah 55:11 *So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, **but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.***

- The reason for the calling is that the Word of God might go forth to accomplish that which is pleasing to God.
- It shall prosper unto the purpose it is sent!
- IT SHALL NOT RETURN VOID!

The Abandonment of All to Follow

Luke 5:11 *And when they had brought their ships to land, **they forsook all, and followed him.***

If following Jesus Christ doesn't cost you anything, it's because you've bought into 'American Christianity.' *Paul Washer*

Philippians 3:7 *But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.*

Philippians 3:8 *Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,*

Considering everything that I might gain in this world, I'd rather lose it all to know Jesus Christ and follow His calling to become "Fishers of Men."

We are a called, chosen, Holy and peculiar people with a great purpose!

1 Peter 2:9 *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

God gave us the marvelous gift of salvation that we might shew forth the praise of Christ through teaching/preaching/testifying of His Word!