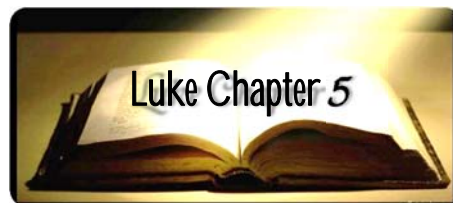


[Pastor John Lawley]

I had a conversation with my four-year-old this morning and so it went something like this. “Daddy, what do you do?” I said, “Daddy’s a pastor.” “What does that mean?” I said, “Well, daddy teaches people about Jesus.” And she says, “Don't they know about Jesus already?” And I said, “Sure. Some know about Jesus, some people have heard about Jesus but they don't know what He did for them.” And she's like, “Okay, well, do a good job.” [Laughter] And I said, “Thanks. Thank you.” So one person is rooting for me this morning. But it's kind of a beautiful thing. Right? Kids, the simplicity and the truth of that. Right? You know, we make it more complicated than it really is.

If you have your Bibles, turn to Luke Chapter 5, Luke Chapter 5. If you have your iPhones or tablets you're welcome to bring out. YouVersion is a great tool. I use YouVersion, it's got some great devotionals as well. Luke chapter 5. If you're new with us and you want a Bible, we have Bibles back here, they're blue on the table at the very back and they are our gift to you, grab one. We'd love for you to take them, take a couple of them, give them out to your friends. Start in the Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, John—hear about what it's all about and then go back and learn about why He needed to come and what happened now that He did. And so we would encourage you to grab that.



If you are new with us, again, there is a seatback card in front of you. All throughout the service we're gonna be referencing next steps because we're in a series called NEXT and so if you want to take your next steps and you feel uncomfortable about downloading an app, about a church that you're checking out, that's totally understandable. Just write some information there and we'll get back to you, email you, and give you that information in a real non-invasive way. If you have some questions about what we're going to talk about. And again, we're in a series called NEXT, the goal of this series is to challenge you to take your next steps with your relationship with the Lord. And so as a church we have a lot of tools that you can do that with and so we just are kind of laying out some of those tools and then the end of the month we're hoping that for those that do want to connect you know how to use the tools, that you are building relationships with people depending on what stage you are in with your relationship with the Lord.

And last week, for those that missed, we talked about the disciple Andrew and we talked about how Andrew was discipled by John the Baptist. And John the Baptist prepared Andrew's mind to meet Jesus, and so then we read this account where Jesus comes and meets Andrew and Andrew recognizes who He is and this is a powerful moment in Andrew's life because we're gonna see later that Andrew follows Jesus; he leaves everything to follow Jesus. But then we talked about discipleship, like what does it mean to disciple somebody, and we talked about this idea of the four spheres of relationships that we are involved in as people. And so we talked about our relationships with our home life, our parents, our family, our background, relationship with the church, relationship with the world, and all of us are kind of relational beings. And so if you're going to disciple somebody you're gonna step into those relationships in their lives while pointing them back to Jesus. That's what it means to disciple somebody, to remind them of who Jesus is as they're navigating these relationships.

And then we talked about kind of spiritual stages of development, and we talked about how the Bible says that some of you may be spiritually dead meaning you have not placed your faith in Jesus and the Spirit of God isn't in you. And so what is the response there is you need to accept the Gospel of Jesus Christ into your life. There is a separation between you and God and that is why you are searching for

purpose in this world, but the void still exists in your heart because you were made to be in relationship with God. Nothing in this world that He created will replace Him and so by placing your faith in Jesus



you step into relationship with God, and the Bible says that means you are “born again.”

And then we talked about for spiritual infants, some of you, your need is to learn more about the Bible. So some of you, you need to surround yourself with spiritual parents who can mentor you, who can speak into you biblical truth as you navigate this world now that you are a follower of Jesus. What does it mean to love my wife, my husband, my children? What does it mean to have a job that's glorifying to God? You need to navigate these questions about even your faith. What does this mean in the Bible? What does this mean in my life? And so that's why you need to have community, you need to have discipleship, and that's an important part of your next step is to talk to spiritual parents and let them help you grow. And so we talked about the idea Andrew having that with John the Baptist.

And so for this morning what we're going to do is we're gonna look at the life of Peter and one of my favorite stories in the gospels, we're going to look at a passage where it's going to be Peter and Jesus interacting on a boat and, really, it's a powerful reminder of why Jesus is here and what He calls us to do. And so what we'll see here is that Peter becomes not just a fisherman but he becomes a fisher of men, meaning Peter is a fisherman by trade but this experience in this situation that he's going to encounter with Jesus is gonna change his perspective on what his purpose is here in the world.

And what I love about Peter—for those who don't know, Simon Peter, right? He's been given the name Peter, we'll see Simon in the Scriptures—Simon Peter is somebody that I can connect with and relate to because Simon Peter, even though he had an idea of Jesus, struggled with doubt. And so if you read the gospels you're gonna see Peter, he has a tendency to be the first to step out in faith but also be the first to doubt, and so all throughout Peter's life with Jesus, as Jesus is alive in His earthly ministry, Peter is quick to kind of unbelieve or question the ability of Jesus in situations that had to do with nature and laws and these things that obviously God is above because He created them.

But then the amazing thing about the life of Peter is if you study Peter in the New Testament, after Jesus goes up to Heaven Peter is a different guy after the Upper Room. Peter is bold and he's humble but he's very different in the way he sees his life, his purpose, and people around him. And so he goes from somebody who's very timid and denies Jesus to somebody who's standing in front of the same people that he was afraid of now saying you put Jesus on the cross and you need to repent. He's fearless all of a sudden, and we know those who are believers that that's the Spirit of God now living in Peter giving him power to be used by God in a way that he couldn't before; he was enslaved to his fears.

And so let's pick it up in Luke Chapter 5, verse 1, here's what it says:

¹ On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him

— this is Jesus —

to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, ² and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets.

— basically means they were kind of done with their day —

~ LUKE 5:1-2

³ Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. ⁴ And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵ And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." ⁶ And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. ⁷ They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." ⁹ For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, ¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." ¹¹ And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.



~ LUKE 5:3-11

Let me pray real quick.

Father,

We pray that You would speak to us this morning through your Word. That it would not just be words on the paper; that we would connect to the living Word that we read and we get the privilege to read. So Lord, I pray that your Spirit would soften the hearts filled with pride in this room this morning. I pray that they would receive the message that you had for Peter, that you have for us, would humble us to see the Word as a tool for your glory and our joy.

In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Okay. So here's the question I have as I read this text: What is Jesus teaching Peter? What's the point of this text? Now I believe that Jesus being sovereign in God always has a point to what He's doing, and so why is it that Jesus is on land, He sees the boat and He says, "Okay, I want to use this boat as a parable to tell a message that I want these disciples and these people to understand and to receive." And so I believe that the fishing boat and the fish are all part of the message that Jesus wants to talk to us about as we read this book. I don't believe it was a coincidence. I believe Jesus was intentional by the boat in order to teach us some things, so let's unpack this.

Jesus is teaching the Word of God and a multitude of people are coming, so many so that he says I'm gonna jump on the boat and I'm gonna move out a little bit so that the crowd doesn't overtake Him, maybe, and so He's continuing to teach. And then He recognizes, right? He's on a boat and he says to the fishermen who literally just fished all day, "Hey, throw your net over the boat." And the fishermen, obviously Peter, kind of says, "Listen, this is dead, there's nothing in here. We've been trying all day." And so He's kind of saying, "Do it. Watch." And so they throw the net and then the nets are so filled that other boats have to come and those boats are so filled that they literally are about to sink and what

happens? Peter falls to his face terrified because he sees the Living God and he sees the power of the Living God and what does he do? He says I'm not worthy to be here. I'm not worthy to follow You. And so Jesus says this profound truth to Peter and the other disciples, He says, "Listen, you are no longer gonna be fishermen, now you are gonna fish for men." And He's gonna open up this purpose for these disciples that they never understood and they never knew, it was at that moment He's giving them direction about what He's saving them from and where He's calling them towards—and what happens? They put their boats ashore and they leave everything and they follow Jesus.

And so I believe in this text there are very key things when we talk about next steps in our faith that we can pull from this. The first is this: I believe this is highlighting the importance of teaching the Word of God. I also think it shows us that obedience to the command of Jesus is key if you want to grow. And the last two I believe that there's a deep sense of humility in this text; humility was the response of the disciples that I'd like to talk more about. And lastly, I believe that they treasured Christ above all else by leaving their livelihood and following Him. And so what I want to do now is I want to start by saying this: I believe that if we are going to be people, like if we're going to be a church that is fishers of men, that have people coming into our local community that do not know Jesus but by coming in meet and fall in love with Jesus, if we are going to be people who have evangelistic impact in this community we must understand okay, what does it take for us to say to our co-worker, to say to our family member, to say to our friend, "Hey, you need Jesus," and to somehow have God use us to guide them to know Him. Like, what does that take, because here's my truth.

Okay, I grew up in the church and I had never led somebody to Jesus until I was 22 years old. I want you to think about that for a second. I grew up in the church. I used to at 16 years old do that kind of really awkward evangelism tactic where you'd walk around and knock on doors. Uh. Right? So you have a tract. I'm not dogging them, I'm just saying I knock on doors, "Hey, do you know you're going to Hell? [extends his hand to shake hands] I'm John." Right? [Laughter] No, seriously. And then I grew up being like, I hate this. I don't hate Jesus, but I just hate this awkward thing that I have to do and it doesn't work, and they just slam the door on my face, and it's just weird. Sometimes it works, but most of the time it doesn't. And so then the question is if I'm called to be a fisher of men, how do I do that well? And what does that look like to grow in that so that I start to look around and say, "God, You are drawing people to me so that I can represent Jesus well, and I can allow them to meet You through me."



And so this is the question of okay, if we're gonna gather people, here's the first thing that I wasn't really told when I was growing up. Not that I wasn't around people that love Jesus, I just never asked, but here's the reason why if you are a follower of Jesus you are called to share your faith: Because in Jesus, in a relationship—not knowledge of—in a relationship with Jesus you will find rest. Amen? Matthew Chapter 11, [verses] 28 through like 30¹, it talks about this idea, when you are in Christ Jesus you will find rest. So why do I want to share Christ with the world? Because I want them to have this rest that comes with knowing Jesus. Okay, that's the why.

Here's another why. Scripture says it very clearly that they will find joy in Him. That I want the world who has temporary happiness and then has to go to work the next week and wait to the weekend to find temporary happiness again, I want that person to know that there's joy found in Jesus. That every day

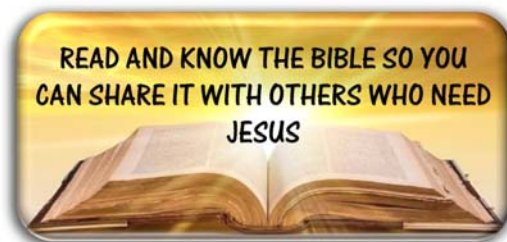
¹ **MATTHEW 11:28-30:** [Jesus speaking] *"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*

you wake up, it's there. Every day you go to bed, it's there. I want them to have everlasting joy. A well that does not run dry. And so I want to introduce them to Jesus because they will have rest and they will have joy if they meet Him.

And here's another one: I want to be fishers of men because I know that if they know Jesus, they have eternal life. Amen? That they will know Jesus and that will never stop and when they're absent from the body—and our flesh will decay, there's not a single soul here that won't have flesh decay—when we're absent from the body, if we know Jesus we step into the eternal Kingdom of God that will never cease. I want that for them. I do not want them to stand before God and recognize their love and need for Him and be separated for the rest of their life because I didn't represent Jesus well to them. So that's the why. Why we need to be fishers of men. Why we need to ask the question: If there's no one in my life that I am representing Jesus enough so that they meet Jesus, what do I need to grow? How do I need to grow in evangelism and in witnessing? What does that look like for me?

1 So here's the first thing we see in this text about how do we become a church that grows in our witness and in our discipleship and evangelism. First one here is teach the Word. Verse 1 it says in this specific occasion while the crowd was pressing in on Jesus, He was teaching the Word of God. They were pressing in to hear the Word of God and He was standing by the lake. This is key. The “bait” for the men fish is the Word. Are you following me? That's the bait. If we are going to draw men to Jesus, we have to teach and know the Word. Church, listen to me here. You have to know the Word to represent Jesus well. You can't say you follow Jesus and not know what He said, that's dangerous.

Like, I want to put this on you just to consider: What happens if you are saying that you follow Jesus but as you talk about the theological understanding of God you lead somebody not towards Him but away? That you mix up theology of who God is and what His Word actually says with some self-help or humanistic worldview because you don't know the difference. Why? Because you don't know the Word. How dangerous would that be? And so as a believer here's a call upon your life is you need to teach the Word of God often, a lot; you need to be in a position in your life where you are explaining the Word of God to the people who have questions, which means – what? It means there's people in this room, here's your step, you need to be in the Word and you need to learn what the Word says.



And I know, I know some testimonies here, these are some of the testimonies I've heard. Like, some of you grew up in the church and in an environment where there was a lot of religiosity and a lot of traditions—but no Bible. And so you grow up and it's just a system or a church and you've never opened the Bible until you were older because you were never encouraged to. Let me tell you something very clearly, the Bible is not some sacred book that I can only read, and the pastors can only read and interpret it to you. There has been a history of mankind where they have said that because they want the power that comes from that. That if I say to you, “You don't understand the Bible, let me explain it to you,” then I become the position of power in your life. And let me tell you something, I don't want to be that because this says don't you dare. That you have access to the Word of God, and there are men and women today who would give everything to have the Word of God, and we live in a culture where we're, like, we don't know God but our Bibles are what? Dusty on our bookshelves.



And so we need to represent God well by knowing His Word meaning yes, you are to study theology, you are to study apologetics, you are to read the Word, ask your questions, dive into it, see what other people have to say about it, compare the text to each other, seek truth in the Word when you have questions rather than saying I don't understand this. Why? Because you are an ambassador of that truth. You need to learn it like you learned your job, like you learned your roster of the Eagles. And I love sports but think about that. Some of us who claim to represent Jesus know more about a sports team than we do about the Word. Come on. Like, I'll give you the why; I'll give you why this is so important if you want to grow.

There are people that will take this exact text that I just read you and say this: Do you know what this text means? It means if you follow Jesus, then He is gonna fill your nets with fish. If you follow Jesus, man, He's gonna fill your life with wealth and you're gonna have all health and you're never gonna be sick and you're never gonna lose your job. If you follow Jesus, you're gonna be wealthy and happy. And we laugh but people take that text and say this is what the text means. And I say no, it doesn't. That is a man-made idea, that is not in this Book. It's not, and it's dangerous, but here's the problem. When we walk through a Christian bookstore and we see the Christian section, there are books there that will try to tell you something different than what this [Bible] is telling you. Do you know what this says in this passage? It has nothing to do with God giving you wealth. It has everything to do with the power comes through Jesus and not through men. And the response of man is not, "I deserved it," the response of man was humility. That was the response of men because here is the good news: What Jesus gives you is so much better than stuff. That is something that if you want the world, you read into this text; but if you want Jesus the fish was not the point, it was the person who provided the fish that we look at and we worship.

And I always say this, if I'm wrong, what happened to Andrew? What happened to Peter? What happened to Jesus? Did their earthly lives turn out in a mansion with a promotion? They gave up their lives for what? For the Lord? Why? Because their Kingdom is not of this world; their treasures are not of this world. And so does that mean that God is not going to provide for you? Of course He is, but is following Jesus a means to stuff? No. It's not about the provision, it's about the peace He gives. And I promise you, peace is way better than provision. Provision is temporary; peace is everlasting. And so that's an example of why we say here that one huge part that we have to embrace as a society is we have to as a church understand our society is biblically illiterate. They don't know the Word and so you are ambassadors for the Word of God. You need to know truth and you need to know how to articulate it.

Paul was all about it. If you read Paul's life all throughout Acts – Acts 13 – Paul is what? He's reasoning in the synagogue. He's reasoning in Asia. He's reasoning with Gentiles and Jewish people. He's doing this for years. He's walking into these areas and he's asking them questions, "What do you think about this? And what made you think—" and he's articulating the Gospel, he's articulating truth, he's entering into intellectual conversations with people and he's representing Jesus well.

Peter warns us at the end of the Scriptures, listen, always be ready to give a defense for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And so for some of us here if you've ever said, "I want to share the Gospel but I don't know enough" – start to learn. The Spirit of God is in you, He will grow you and He will give you His truth, and He'll put people around you that's gonna help you be anchored into the Word and not chase man's ideas and you'll be good and you'll grow.

In my life there are so many situations where the Word of God opened up to me as a believer because I just stepped into an opportunity for it to. Like, it's just a powerful step in your faith. For me, it was I want to understand the Word of God beyond just a couple verses that I try to apply to my life. I want to

understand the point of it, and so I stepped into a Christian College because that was what right for me and I had these professors that introduced things like systematic theology, which was just taking Scripture and putting it together to answer these questions that I always had questions about but I never had enough energy or really motivation to take the next steps. Things like what happens at the end? What is the end times? What is the Trinity? What does sanctification mean? All these questions about the nature of God and I find and I found that the Scripture answers those things and it just opened up the Word to me, it made it more than just a book. So I'm gonna ask you guys to do the same.

Here's some next steps that I would just encourage you. Like we said earlier, we have an 8-week Bible study that's coming up on the book of Ruth and so we're gonna ask you guys, some of you who've never stepped into a group before, it's just an 8-week thing. You won't be bugged after that eight weeks. You can do eight weeks and be done and you can step into a community and we're gonna have some videos that we're creating on the book of Ruth where spiritual parents are going to talk about the book of Ruth and apply it and challenge and ask questions about the Scripture text. And then we're gonna give that to you as a tool in your small groups to discuss the book of Ruth and you're gonna have an opportunity to learn how to study the Bible and it's gonna be great for your growth. And so we want to invite you guys all to do that.

And here's some practical stuff. For those that love YouTube, statistics say that you spend hours on it, for those that love YouTube instead of watching a video that's gonna make you laugh for two seconds and then you have to go to a different video, type in “Ravi Zacharias” and get ready – seriously, type in “Ravi Zacharias” on YouTube and get ready because there are men and women that represent God well in the apologetics, in professional academic arenas, and they articulate the Word of God in a way that will encourage you and challenge you to do likewise.

And so that's one of the things we see there, that the first step of making disciples and to be people who fish for men is to teach and know the Word of God.

2

Here's the second one is that we are to obey the commands of God. Look at verse 4 with me:

⁴ And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.”

~ LUKE 5:4

And so what I love is that the Bible is true and so it acts and it talks about true people, not make-believe people, so when Pete is not brimming with faith I appreciate that because how many of you have stories like this—God says to do something and you question what God says to do? Okay, I'm gonna put two hands up. God says to do something and you question whether what He wants you to do is right; whether it makes sense financially, whether it makes sense with where you are in your life, whether it makes sense with—*if God only knew what I'm going through*. How many have ever said that? Like, think about what that means. “God, if You only knew.” [Laughter] Like, if I was God I would just feel like ⚡ lightning bolt [*he smiles*] – no. [Laughter]

But think about it, don't we do that? Like, I do that. And so when Peter does that I'm like okay, Peter's a person. Right? Like, Peter's a person. He was a person and he was like, he's not this, like, perfect person that wore sandals. Like, he's a person and he struggled and I get that. And so Jesus says to Peter, “Listen, you need to throw this net out,” and Peter does not respond with obedience right now, he responds with doubt and here's what Peter does. He puts himself in a position that—you notice this real

quickly where he's like, "Listen, I'm the fisherman." And so then he's quick to say, "Okay, okay, wait, I'm—okay, I gotta remember who I'm talking to here," and so then he does that.

But here's the point of why Jesus does it. He knows that Peter, like, He knows they fished all day and so as He's asking that, what is He asking for? He's asking for faith, He's asking for obedience from Peter. That was actually the point of this, is will you obey Me? I have no limitations because I am God, but I love you and I didn't make a robot, I want you to choose to obey. And so He calls Peter to obey and Peter finally does and this is a huge step for us. Like, obedience is a huge hurdle for some of you because you know what God wants you to do but you've got every excuse in the book to not to do it. And listen, sometimes the excuses make sense in this world.

I didn't make a robot



I want you to choose to obey

Do you understand what I mean by that? Like, it makes sense in this world. Peter fished all day and there was nothing, so when it comes to any fishermen they would say it makes sense to stop. What God is asking you to do does not make sense with your routine, with your schedule, with your provision, with your protection, it doesn't make sense, but to God, God doesn't have any limitations so what He's asking you to do even if it doesn't make sense to you, if you know that's from the Lord, He's calling you to obedience. And when you obey you will see His faithfulness just like Peter did.

obedience

So for some of you if your excuses are like this—"I want to share my faith with my friends, but they don't believe that kind of thing"—was your disbelief a barrier that God couldn't overcome in your life? Like, I'm so grateful for people who saw a prideful, cocky teenager and said, "But Jesus is greater than them, I'm gonna love them and point him to Jesus anyway." I'm so grateful for them that they didn't give up on me because of what I projected. And so the reminder is if you have an excuse for the why—why you can't grow, why you can't share—I just want to challenge you God is not limited. You can do anything. He just wants a faithful, obedient follower. And so for some of us that's the step, it's just obedience. You already know, you already know what God's calling you to do, it's just to obey, and then you're gonna see God's hand in it.

And here's a couple things here, I just want to throw these out here and I mentioned them last week as a practical application to this. There are gift sets that we are praying for in this church that have yet to step out and there are many gift sets that we need in order to grow and impact the Kingdom of God, and we know that you exist in this church but we know you're not walking in obedience to step out and use those gifts. And this is the dilemma we face as a church, we have a mission and we know what God is calling us to do and we have believers and the bridge between accomplishing the mission is obedience. Give what God's calling you to give, serve in the way that God's calling you to serve, lead in the way God's calling you to lead, and we will be effective tools for God to use. So if you love something, God has given you a passion, use it, use it, please, not for your own self-glory but for the Kingdom of God.

Get baptized. Some of you it's going on a mission trip. We've got a mission meeting coming up about going to Mexico and starting to—if you have a heart for the world and you turn on the news and you you're broken by what you hear and you want to do something, do it. Step into communities that are gonna go around the world and share the love of God. For some of you it's stepping into serving on a stage and the tech team, in Kidz ministry, whatever that looks like, stepping into serving God's calling you to use your gifts. And so for some of you it's simply, like I said, baptism. It's God is wanting you to make your faith public but you're afraid to. You've got a million fears. So I challenge you, the next time we do baptisms you step out and you conquer those fears and you walk in obedience, make a public declaration of your faith.

3 Here's the third one that we recognize here, it's humility. Look at verse 8 with me, the end of 8 we see Peter and I mentioned this earlier, he falls down to His feet saying: ***But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."*** And so Peter sees what's happening here and like I said, he doesn't say, "Yeah, God, thank you for giving me all these fish. Man, I can go to the market and I can sell these and I will be the best fisherman and the wealthiest fisherman around." N-n-no, that was not Peter's response. What was Peter's response to God's saving grace? Humility. He falls to his face and he says I'm not worthy of this, and Jesus does what? He pulls him out of that state.

By the way, that rightful state because he isn't, and He says but I have rescued you from not only you but I've also rescued you from that sense that you are unworthy because now you are my child and My Spirit lives in you, so He pulls them out of that state. But that's his response, it's humility, and why is that, like, this is where, like, when I do sermon prep the night before I go in my room and I practice just the length and I do that just because I want to honor the length that God has given me. And when I got to this place God just gave me just this thought that just broke me, it just broke me, I just was crying out to the Lord, like, this is so true in my life. And so this is what He said, He said, "Listen, if you're teaching the body of Christ, if you are called" – and I am – "to be a shepherd to your flock," here is what He said to me. "Humility is missed when it comes to growth. It's missed because pride is many times what drew you away from the Lord. It drew you away."

Pride is what's causing your marriage to be in in the shambles it is. Pride is what caused your relationship with your children to be what it is. Pride is what caused a lot of issues in your life. If you're honest with yourself, the pride of you refusing to trust God, to obey God, has caused you to have severed relationships with the people around you because pride is what keeps us from saying I need You, Jesus. That You are my king. Pride says I'm the king. "And so pride," God said, "is what draws you away from Me." And then He said this to me, He said, "Humility brings you back." That's what broke me. Pride is what drew you away and He says I will use humility to bring you back. So how do I restore and grow and strengthen these relationships that I've broken through pride in my life? It's humility. How do I save my marriage? Humility. God, I need you. How do I grow in my relationship with the Lord? It's you wake up, you fall on your knees and say, "God, I need your Spirit to lead me today because I will not, You will. I need You to help me be a good husband. I need You." Humility is gonna draw you back to the Lord. So if you want to grow, pride needs to get destroyed in your life.

Pride that you know more than God, pride that you think you figured out this religious thing and you don't need it. Pride that you think that your wife is wrong, that your children are wrong, that your boss is wrong. What does Peter do? Peter falls on his knees in humility and says, "Lord, I'm not worthy but I need You." Humility is key if you want to grow. It's key, and listen, there's a testimony that's very obvious. If you meet somebody who's been walking with the Lord and they're an inspiration with you because of their love for Jesus, I'm gonna promise you something, they're not prideful.

In fact, most people who've been walking with the Lord are more humble now than when they started. Amen? Like, Lord, I thought I was good and You just continue to reveal these sinful things in my heart which continue to make me draw back to You. I need You more now than I did before. The more I know the more humble I am. And so if you are in a state right now where you think you've figured this out, then you got no shot of growing. It's Lord, I need to continue for You to lead my life, for You to teach me your ways, for You to show me your path, because I do not know and am not able without You. Like that is the mark of a believer because here is what Peter does. Peter does amazing transformation that's led in humility.

And so here's my prayer as a church, like, there's never been a revival where the church has this massive amount of people, these thousands upon thousands of people that are moving into our community here in the next couple years, who most of them statistically do not know church, do not go to church, they don't love Jesus. How do we get them to come into our church? Well, here's what we know about revivals in the past. That the church has been marked by prayer, so if you want to grow, if we want to grow, we have to be marked by prayer. Lord, we need You, help us, help us to be a church that represents You well. Help us to grow in our love for each other and our families. Lord, we need You. And what is prayer? Prayer is an act of humility. That's why a lot of a struggle in prayer. We struggle because we don't know what to say because our pride says that we need to somehow have a formula to prayer. Here's a good prayer: Lord, I need You. And then just don't say anything.

Like, Pastor Bob let our ministry team in one of our meetings this week, actually it was last week, and he said, "I just want to give some time just alone with the Lord where we don't say anything." And I have to admit to you, I don't do that enough. And so I remember we just kind of prayed and then for like five minutes we didn't say anything, and I can't tell you how blessed that was for me just letting the Lord speak to me, just being humble enough not to say anything when I'm so quick to talk. So good, so good. So maybe for some of you humility is what you need. Maybe— we have prayer gatherings every month, maybe it's going to that as a family. Hey, you know, my relationship's tough, my marriage is struggling, we're gonna go to this prayer gathering and we're gonna ask the Lord to help us. Every morning I'm going to ask the Lord to help me grow and give me the gentleness that only comes from the Spirit of God. I mean that's the mark for some of you.

I love this quote by Jonathan Edwards, he talks about it in this book called *Religious Affections*. I'm not gonna read it because we're running short on time, but he marks this idea of a true Christian love and he says it's marked by humility. It's all marked, broken. When you step into evangelism, when you [INAUDIBLE/RECORDING GLITCH 0:18:53.8] relationship with somebody, it's [INAUDIBLE/RECORDING GLITCH 0:18:52.1]. Now, I want to stop and say this: You think that you have grown in your relationship with the Lord [INAUDIBLE/RECORDING GLITCH 0:18:46.9] you grew up in church and you know the Bible, but here's where I think God is keeping you from growing [INAUDIBLE/RECORDING GLITCH 0:18:39.5] think you're good enough and you think you're better than other people. And because of that you stopped growing because your pride, it's just pride, says to everyone that you've arrived. And so humility marks your life and you need to humble yourself to say, "I [INAUDIBLE/RECORDING GLITCH 0:18:20.8] and the people around me. Just because I know the religious things does not mean I know Jesus, or that I'm growing in Him. I just know that [INAUDIBLE/RECORDING GLITCH 0:18:12.4] how to play the game." And listen, the game is not growth. You can [INAUDIBLE/RECORDING GLITCH 0:18:05.7] in church knowing the formula of what to say when, but that does not mean you're growing in Jesus. So some of you, your religious [INAUDIBLE/RECORDING GLITCH 0:17:58.3] keeping you from growing. Call that into repentance.

And so this is what Jonathan [INAUDIBLE/RECORDING GLITCH 0:17:52.0] says, "Every mark of a Christian [INAUDIBLE/RECORDING GLITCH 0:17:49.6] humility. [INAUDIBLE/RECORDING GLITCH 0:17:47.5] who's gonna be fishers of men is going to teach the Word, is gonna obey Jesus' commandments, is gonna humble themselves, and then lastly, look at verse 10 with me, they're gonna treasure Christ above all. [INAUDIBLE/RECORDING GLITCH 0:17:35.37] Simon, in the second half:

Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men.

~ LUKE 5:10b (NASB)

And we know that [INAUDIBLE/RECORDING GLITCH 0:17.28.6] each year we talked about this a couple times [INAUDIBLE/RECORDING GLITCH 0:17.26.3] fishermen left everything behind, boats aside, and [INAUDIBLE/RECORDING GLITCH 0:17.22.3].

I want to end on a story to [INAUDIBLE/RECORDING GLITCH 0:17.18.2] life. I'm gonna ask the team to come up, but just this past week I was at the high school youth group and I didn't teach but I was just hanging out, and I had this privilege of—when we go to student ministry here, they break up into small groups [INAUDIBLE/RECORDING GLITCH 0:17.02.4] break up into groups, a lot of times it's with the same kind of age and gender groups, and so I was just sitting with a bunch of high school boys. And I've been discipling many of your children for the last decade plus in this church and I'm gonna tell you something that is very concerning to me when it comes to the spiritual growth of our kids. Okay?

Here's the conversation that I've had hundreds of times and I had it this past week. I sat around with a bunch of teenage boys and I asked them this question. I said, "What is your purpose?" And so we just talked a little bit about that and I said, "What are some idols in your life that you can't overcome? What are some idols?" And you know what they all said? Grades. To a man, "What's an idol?" "Grades." "Why?" "Man, because my mom and dad, they ream me about my grades. I've gotta get good grades. And I've gotta get good grades. And if I don't get good grades I won't get into a good college, and I won't have a good job and, man, grades." And I said, "Grades." He's like, "Yes." I said, "Why do they

want you to have good grades?" "I don't know." "Well, isn't that gonna get a good college?" "Yeah, but I don't even know what I want to do." Okay, so could idols be protection and provision?" "Yeah, yeah, oh, yeah, yeah, yeah." I said, "Okay."



Grades – don't you dare make them an idol

I want to say something and I represented you well, parents, and I always do, I really do, grades matter, but I want to say this to parents here: Don't you dare make it an idol. We do not treasure grades as believers because if they don't know their purpose, if they don't know their purpose, grades can become an identity and the enemy

can take that and rob them of their worth. And here's what I mean by that. Most of us in this room, if I asked you what is your purpose in life, you don't know because we spend all of our time and our energy on fearing not having enough – provision; not being safe – protection; and we are ignorant of our purpose. By the way, this is a disobedience to what the Word of God says because God says this: I will provide for you. I will protect you. Your job is to discover why I made you. And in doing so these things in your life—grades, college, jobs—these will come because God is faithful.

Peter, Jesus was teaching Peter something and it wasn't about provision, it wasn't about the fish, it was about who Peter was and what God was calling Peter towards, and it was a life—look at me for those who are believers—it was a life greater than purpose and provision and protection. It was a new purpose only found in Him. So here's my advice I give the teenagers all the time, grades are not the important tool in order for you to discover your purpose. Treasure in Christ, knowing who He is and how He made you to be will allow you to see your grades as a tool to get to the place where He wants you to go. You need to know who you are in order to use the tools around you to shape that direction.

So listen, we start in the wrong place. If you want to know where God wants you to be, you gotta spend time with Him, you gotta walk in obedience, you gotta come with a humble heart. Why? Because there's peace found there. There is joy found there. There is rest found there. There is eternal life found

there and when we start to move in a direction in which God has for us, **He will provide for us. He will protect us.**

How many of you have that testimony where God was calling you to the uncomfortable but when He moved and you listened He showed up? *Man, I knew that I wasn't supposed to work at that job but I was afraid that my family wouldn't have a house. But man, I took the step and I stepped away from that job knowing that I wasn't able to glorify God and it wasn't where He had me, and then God showed up and He provided, something came in the mail or somebody called me on the phone, and He is wiring His will into my life as I walk in obedience.* And so I do not want to have our kids think the purpose of their life is to have some other person write a letter on a paper. It's greater than that. And I want them to do all things for the glory of God. Man, I want us to have straight A's so that somebody can look at us and say, "What's wrong with these kids?" Man, they love Jesus. They're all in.

So don't get me wrong, but that's not the point, let us not dare think that the point is not to treasure Christ above all else. The point is I want us to say listen, if God calls us to leave our provision and our protection in our careers, that we will leave everything to follow Him because these were not the point, these were just the ways that we would use to bring Him glory. Right? And these are tools. These aren't my identity, these are tools. And for some of you it just means you are to stay where you are and to [INAUDIBLE/RECORDING GLITCH 0:11.30.7], and for others your next step is to walk towards obedience and God says, "Listen, I want you to leave that and follow Me."

And so here's what I want to do and we don't do this often but man, in my life there have been times where I need to obey physically and so here's what I want to do. I'm gonna end with this. I'm gonna say what I just talked about and I'm gonna invite you to join me if it's something that you want to do in responding to I will grow in these things, I will take the next steps this week in my life and with my family to grow in these things. And if you think these apply to you I'm gonna invite you to stand. And as we stand together as some of these truths become something that you need to recognize then I'm gonna have us stand together and then we are going to seek the Lord in prayer to help us.

So here's the first one: If you need to learn more about the Word of God, that you have been claiming to follow Jesus but you've been walking in ignorance about the Word of God and you need to grow so that you can teach the Word of God and represent Him well, if you want to say I need to grow in that I invite you to stand and you say, "Father, I am going to commit to You to learn more about your Word." Praise God.

For some of you if you're in this room and maybe you're standing for all of us, if you're saying listen, there are things in my life that I need to obey, that I have been marked by disobedience and I blame God for the choices in my life even though I know that I'm not walking in obedience. If that's you, I want you to stand and say, "Lord, I'm committing physically to say I'm going to obey You."

For some of you it's humility. You're standing right now or maybe you need to stand because you're like, "Lord, I need humility to mark my life. I recognize, Lord, that pride is what destroys the relationships in my life and humility is gonna draw me back to You. And I want humility to reign in my life. Lord, help me to be humble.

"Lord, I'm easily angered, give me patience." How much of a blessing would that be in your life if you let God give you patience? And how often is our anger?

Lastly is this, and for those who are standing and maybe those who aren't, that we would treasure Christ above all things. That we won't teach our children, we won't teach ourselves that there are idols that

WHAT'S MY PURPOSE IN LIFE?

SERIES: NEXT | WEEK 2 | 1.12.2020

have anything to do with something outside of Christ. That everything we value as a family, everything we value in our home, all is through the lens of our purpose and they are tools, they aren't idols anymore. So we can love and we can teach the people around us who they are, why they were made, and not diminish them. Amen.

Father,

We thank you, Lord, that we as a church have a visible act of obedience here. That Lord, You've called Peter to go and to follow, so I just feel, Lord, like, You led us to stand because we want to show You that we want more of You. So I pray that the Spirit of God would come in a fresh new way to those that are standing in this room. That You would honor them by bringing people into their lives, bringing opportunity into their lives to grow in their knowledge of You, and their faithfulness of You, their obedience of You, and grow in humility, Lord. So we ask that You bless this time as we respond to You and your Word.

In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Thank you, guys, you may be seated.

Now we're going to transition here, it's a little bit of a transition to our offering time but it's also continuing on our active obedience. We always have our offering time as part of our services for those who are new because God calls us to give. And so we at Calvary believe that we give our first 10% so that God can be honored with our money, that we don't treasure it. And for those that give online, my wife and I give online, as a part of spiritual discipline in your life to be reminded that, man, this is not ours, everything is God's but we want to give that back. Thank you for giving online, but for those who give in-person we invite you to do that now so ushers will you come forward as we give. Thank you, guys.

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED,
SCRIPTURE QUOTATIONS WERE TAKEN FROM
THE HOLY BIBLE, ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION. ESV® TEXT EDITION: 2016.
COPYRIGHT © 2001 BY CROSSWAY BIBLES, A PUBLISHING MINISTRY OF GOOD NEWS PUBLISHERS.

SCRIPTURE MARKED (NASB) WAS TAKEN FROM THE NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE® (NASB),
COPYRIGHT © 1960,1962,1963,1968,1971,1972,1973,1975,1977,1995
BY THE LOCKMAN FOUNDATION. USED BY PERMISSION.

Graphics/Image Credits: Images used were obtained either from the sermon video, DuckDuckGo images [search aggregate images attributed as follows: Pg 1-Bible background (youtube.com); Pg 3-Fishing (youtube.com); Pg 4-Door slam (stefunnysoundsaboutright.blogspot.com); Pg 5-Bible background (ccrno.org), Dusty Bible Read Me! (awordywoman.com); Pg 11-Grades (flipboard.com); Pg 13-Watch Now (onlinehsa.com)], and/or created in whole or in part by the transcriber.

Keywords: read, teach, fishers of men, next step, obedience, tools, idols, humility



Calvary Fellowship Website: <https://www.cfdowningtown.com/watch>

YouTube Livestream: <https://youtu.be/B97RDUfNuKg>

Facebook 930AM: <https://www.facebook.com/CFDowningtown/videos/847325505727895/>

Facebook 11AM: <https://www.facebook.com/CFDowningtown/videos/770675203342215/>

COPYRIGHT © 2020 – JOHN LAWLEY – ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
