

A disciple: Oh wise and all knowing one, take me to the realm of perfect peace.

The master: If I take you to that realm, it will no longer be peaceful.

Let us give thanks to God. God knows we make many troubles. However, He calls us to the realm of perfect peace.

We find extraordinary “calls” by God with people in the Bible. For example, God called Noah to build an Ark and prepare for His judgment. God called Abraham to leave his country, his people, and go to the land God would show him. God called Moses through a burning bush. Moreover, the call of David, the call of Paul on the road to Damascus. Over and over in scriptures, there are some remarkable calls of God on people.

However, when we read these special calls of people to serve the Lord in particular ways, it is easy to think that God couldn't or wouldn't call us. However, the Bible also writes calls on ordinary people, like you and me!

Through faith in Jesus Christ we are CALLED: A Child of God, A Friend, A New Creation, A People belonging God, Joint Heirs with Jesus, the Temple of God, and so on. Moreover, another special calling of God on anyone who trusts and confesses Jesus as their Savior and Lord is DISCIPLE!

(Turn to the person next to you and say: “You are Called to be His Disciple”)

Today's scripture shows us the beginning of the disciple of Jesus Christ and teaches us what it means to be His disciple.

First, a disciple is one who follows Jesus, even when it doesn't make sense.

Luke writes that after Jesus finished teaching, he told Simon to “put out into the deep water and let your nets down for a catch.” At this request, Simon has got to be a little bit angry at the whole situation. He has had a long night, and he is ready to go home. Furthermore, Luke 5:2 tells us that he had already cleaned up his nets. Commentators tell us that the washing of nets was a tedious and monotonous task that had to be done well to ensure the longevity and effectiveness of the nets.

I can recall several times. When I have gone to a car wash to clean up my car, and I go all out to make it spotless. I mean I used the brush all over the car, put a fresh coat of wax on it, got down on my knees and cleaned the wheels by hand. Then I'd hand dry the whole thing to make sure that there weren't any water spots left on it. Also, I'd vacuum out the interior, cover it in Armor All, and just had it looking good. I'd park it in the driveway, and then about 30 minutes later, you know what happens? It rains. Not just a little sprinkle, but it just pours. Now there are water spots and dirt all over the outside of the car, and since the ground is wet, I track mud into my freshly vacuumed floorboard. Can anybody else sympathize with that? It is frustrating. That's where Simon is sitting in this situation.

We see some of that frustration come out in Simon's initial reaction to Jesus' request in verse 5. He says to Jesus, “we worked hard all night long and caught nothing.” Simon was a professional fisherman; it is what he did for a living. Now a carpenter tells him how to do his job. However, for whatever reason, Simon says, “we worked hard all night long and caught nothing. But if you say so, I will let down the nets.” He is once again submissive to Jesus' request and puts the nets back into the water. I think that many times with this passage we emphasize the miracle of the catching of fish, but to me, the biggest miracle is that Peter did what Jesus told him to do, despite the circumstances.

Being a disciple means to follow. It is an essential part of being a disciple of Jesus by following Him where He leads us. A disciple will follow Jesus because He says so, no matter what and even when it doesn't make any sense- loving others, even our enemies, Forgiving each other seventy-seven times. Asking God with a thankful heart without worrying about anything. Does it make a sense in a worldly standard? However, if you think You are Called to be His Disciple, you have to follow Jesus. Are you Following Jesus today as His Disciple?

Second, a disciple is one who partners with others. Though being a disciple involves a personal confession of faith to Jesus as the Lord, it is not meant to be lived out alone. Here Jesus wants disciples to know that if they are going to be the disciples, they need to partner with others.

When Simon let down the nets, verse 6 tells us that "They let them down and caught such a large number of fish that the nets were about to break." Jesus blesses them, but that blessing also comes with problems. The ropes of the net are straining and are probably becoming frayed from the amount of weight. Peter has to call on James and John as well as His other companions to help him. We need one another for support, encouragement, and prayer and to serve together. That is why we are commanded in Hebrews 10:25, "Not to give up meeting together as some are in the habit but encourage one another and all the more as you see the Day of the Lord approaching."

A disciple is one who seeks the fellowship of others and partners with others in following Jesus! Are you committed to the fellowship and partnering with others in Christ?

Third, a disciple is one who surrenders and exalts Jesus. Let's look at Simon's reaction to the miracle. "Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!" Simon immediately tells Jesus to depart from him. Then Simon proclaims to Jesus that he is a sinful man. Now, this is not an act of repentance where Simon confesses all of his sins, but rather is a realization of the presence of God's work in the life of Jesus. He realizes that Jesus is an agent of God. The Bible says that he was filled with amazement, as well as his companions, James and John. We exalt Jesus by confessing faith, by worshiping Him regularly, by obeying Him in all things.

Fourth, a disciple is one who sets their priorities to Serve Jesus. After the miracle, Jesus tells them that from now on they will become fishers of men, and verse 11 tells us that after they had taken their boats to the bank of the water, they "left everything and followed Him."

Now let's backtrack just a moment to the miracle of the catching of fish. Catching fish is how they made money. They had hit the jackpot of the fishing business, which meant big bucks. I bet that as they pulled the fish into the boat, you could see dollar signs gleaming in their eyes. In other words, they could finally afford that big screen television that they had been drooling over for months, or they would finally be able to talk about a vacation that they had longed for. However, it says that they left it all to follow Jesus. The boats, the nets, the abundance of fish, their families, everything. Being a disciple is about letting Jesus set our priorities in life and seeking to serve Him by sharing Him with others. You can't truly be a disciple of Jesus without a commitment to serve the Lord and share Him with others. Peter didn't quit fishing because it was hard or even because they didn't catch anything at first. He went out, took the chance, risked it all as Jesus led.

There are certain things in life that I am honored to be called: a Son, a Brother, a Friend, a Husband, a Pastor, a Christian, ... and it is also a great privilege to be called a disciple of Jesus!

You are called to be Jesus' disciple too! We will follow Him. We will surrender and exalt Him. We will partner with others. We will set our priorities to serve and share Jesus with others! How is the Lord challenging you today to live up to your calling as His Disciple?

I close my sermon with verse 5, " we worked hard all night long and caught nothing. But if you say so, I will let down the nets." If you say so, we will love others even our enemies. If you say so, we will go wherever you lead us. If you say so, we will be your disciple.