**Wednesday Night Bible Study**

**Wednesday 13 July 2022**

**Queens Chapel UMC \* 7410 Muirkirk Road \* Beltsville, MD 20705**

**Instructor: Rev. Dr. Will Butler**

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**The Gospel of Luke**

**Luke** **5:1-11**

**(NIV)**

 1 One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God.

 2 He saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets.

 3 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.

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

 5 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.”

 6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.

 7 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.

 8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!”

 9 For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken,

 10 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.”

 11 So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

**Review:**

There are several principles we can learn from this event:

**I. Yielding all that we own to Him—Stewardship is part of**

 **Discipleship:**

 **Luke 5:1-3**

 **1 One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God.**

 **2 He saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets.**

 **3 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.**

**II. Kingdom service rendered apart from Christ’s wisdom, power and**

 **direction will not be successful**

**Luke 5:4-5a**

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

 **5a Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything…**

**III. Peter placed humility over knowledge and experience**

**Luke 5:5b**

 **“…But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”**

**Lesson for Today:**

**IV We must be willing to launch out into the deep**

**Luke 5:4-6**

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

 **5 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.”**

 **6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.**

* Faith has deep waters that one must be willing to explore.
* We must be willing to step out on faith

**What Does it Mean to Step Out in Faith?**

* Stepping out in faith means trusting God at His Word.
* It means to fully place your confidence in God for whatever comes next.
* It means not necessarily knowing the next steps or what the deep waters will bring.
* But it’s knowing that God will guide and equip you to accomplish His will and purpose for your life—no matter how deep the waters become.

**Jeremiah 29:11**

**“**For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

* The Lord God commands us to not be afraid, do not worry, do not fear because Faith is the opposite of fear.
* Faith fosters possibilities and hope.
* Faith is trusting and knowing that in spite of my current experience and situation, good things are coming when I launch out into the deep.
* Faith is clinging onto God instead of staying in shallow waters.

 **What are the deep waters of faith like for you?**

**V Serving Christ takes Team Work**

**Luke 5:7**

 **“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.”**

* Nobody is good at everything. That means I need you and you need me to serve Christ.
* No one has all the talents or abilities. No one can say I don’t need anyone—that is completely wrong. We need each other when working in the Kingdom

The Bible teaches us to look out for one another:

* **Pray for One Another**

 “Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.” (James 5:16)

* **Be Kindly Affectionate To One Another**

“Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.” (Romans 12:10)

* **Give Preference To One Another**

“Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another” (Romans 12:10)

* **Encourage One Another**

“So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.”

(I Thessalonians 5:11)

* **Serve One Another**

“For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don’t use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.”

(Galatians 5:13)

* **Bear One Another’s Burdens**

“Share each other’s burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.”

(Galatians 6:2)

“God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them **to help each other,** passing on to others God's many kinds of blessings.”

**1 Peter 4:10 (Living Bible)**

* I need you in my life and you need me in your life. No one is alone ranger in life—God designed it that way.

 **What prevents believers today from looking out for one another?**

**VI When we sense God’s presence, that’s the time to Worship**

**Luke 5:8**

 **“When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!”**

* Peter has an overpowering sense of unworthiness to be in the presence of God.
* Whenever we no longer feel the Spirit of the Lord in our souls, it’s time to have another encounter with Christ
* John describes the encounter, what it felt like to be with Christ.

**1 John 1**

 1 We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life.

 2 This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then he was revealed to us.

 3 We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

 4 We are writing these things so that you may fully share our joy.

* Isaiah explains his encounter—**Isaiah 6:1-5**

 1 It was in the year King Uzziah died that I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple.

 2 Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew.

 3 They were calling out to each other, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven’s Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory!”

 4 Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke.

 5 Then I said, “It’s all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the Lord of Heaven’s Armies.”

 **What was your first encounter with Christ Like?**

 **Is the evidence still there?**

 **If not, why not?**

**VII Peter, James, and John dropped everything to follow Christ**

**John 5:10-11**

 **10 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.”**

 **11 So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.**

 **What did you drop to follow Christ?**

**What does it take to follow Christ?**

**Matthew 16:24**

 “Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

**1 Petr 2:21**

 “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps”

**What is the benefit of following Christ?**

**John 8:12**

 “Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

**John 10:27-28**

 27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

 28 "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

Amen