



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS for the week of August 2, 2020

“What Am I Doing Here?”

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Theme/concept

A person who is fully alive in Christ pursues God’s call. In our Vision Frame we say, “We partner with God in fulfilling his will in all the arenas of our life.” The word “call” is a biblical, theological term used to describe God’s intentional engagement with us in all areas of life. God calls and we respond to God. Our primary calling in life is to love God and to love others as we love ourselves. We are also called to continue Jesus’ work in this world by how we do everything we do—working, providing for loved ones, being involved in our communities.

Application

As Jesus’ followers we may not do many different things, but we will do everything differently.

Charge

We pursue God’s call to live differently.

Icebreaker (for groups)

Describe different viewpoints that people might take when considering what a “rich and satisfying life” might look like. What are some qualifiers people use to measure such a life?

Reflections on the sermon

What aspect of “pursuing God’s call” particularly got your attention? Was it a new thought for you?

Scripture

Luke 5:1-11 (New International Version)

One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee,^[a] great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God. ²He noticed two empty boats at the water’s edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. ³Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon,^[b] its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there.

⁴When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish.”

⁵“Master,” Simon replied, “we worked hard all last night and didn’t catch a thing. But if you say so, I’ll let the nets down again.” ⁶And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! ⁷A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.

⁸When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, “Oh, Lord, please leave me—I’m such a sinful man.” ⁹For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. ¹⁰His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed. Jesus replied to Simon, “Don’t be afraid! From now on you’ll be fishing for people!” ¹¹And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus.

John 10:10 (New Living Translation)

The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Breaking down the Scripture

1. Briefly describe what is happening in Luke 5:1-11. Who are the main characters and what are they doing in this narrative passage?
2. In verses 1-3, how was the crowd causing a problem, and how was the problem solved? What can we conclude about the crowd’s interest in what Jesus is saying and teaching?
3. In verses 4-5, what does Jesus tell Peter to do? Is Jesus’ command reasonable? What is Peter’s response?
4. In verses 6-7, what are the results of Peter’s obedience?
5. Describe the fishermen’s responses in verses 8-10. What might Peter have been thinking and feeling that made him react to Jesus the way he did? What do you think is going on here?

6. What does Jesus say to Peter in verses 10-11 that changes the course of Peter's life? What is Peter's response?

7. What does Jesus say in John 10:10? In the sermon, how did Tanner connect these words to God's call?

Going deeper

1. Could we assume it was just Peter and Jesus in the boat when Jesus gave his command to "let down the nets"? What might be some reasons Peter would obey even when there was no physical evidence that it was a wise move? What was it about Jesus that would make an experienced fisherman like Peter go against his instincts and obey him?
2. If just Jesus and Peter are in the boat, who is the "they" fishing together in verse 6? What would you conclude about Jesus' involvement in Peter's work?
3. In verse 8, Peter must have been overcome with his own self-awareness and a new recognition of the profound status of Jesus. Try to put yourself in Peter's place—why would a sense of his own sin overwhelm him?

4. James and John, along with Peter, would go forward as Jesus' inner circle among his disciples. Describe how much they knew about their future work and their future role as apostles at this point. How much did Jesus know? How is the call from Jesus a seminal moment for these partners in the fishing business?

5. How would the disciples' call shape their lives as those disciples would indeed "fish for people," or "catch people," according to other translations? Would you describe it as a "normal" life? How would you describe their lives going forward?

6. Examine Jesus' promise in John 10:10. Would you describe the life Peter and the other disciples would go on to live as a "rich and satisfying life"?

Reflection questions

1. Before today, what would you have said was a "rich and satisfying life"? How would you describe it now?

2. Consider Ephesians 2:10 (above). How has God created you, positioned you, prepared you, and called you to impact the corner of the world in which you find yourself?

3. How has God suited you for your unique calling?

Closing prayer

Lord, what in the world do You want to do with me today? Where and what do you have in mind to bless the people around me today? How best can I serve You by serving them? Help me to point them to you. Help me bring them to you. Help me to advance your kingdom today through my encounters, and remind me that's your call for me today. Amen.