

## Rethink: Following Jesus in the 21st Century

### Part 1: Who's Willing?

Luke 5:1-11

#### **WE:**

We talk a lot about Following Jesus... What does that even mean? The problem is...

**We all have our preconceived ideas of what it means to follow Jesus**... what we've been taught/experienced/assumed.

Is it...

#### Fancy way to say... being a Xian?

- Church goer
- Believe right things
- Behave certain way

#### Cleaning up? Trying our best? Following rules?

- Results... Maybe gave up? If there is a God he definitely isn't happy with me...
- Feel far from God b/c he's disappointed in you?
- Rules... not for you...

#### Standing up for God... Whatever that looks like to you.

- Making sure everyone else is following rules the way you define them, honors God
- Maybe this is the type of Jesus follower you've experienced... decided "just not for you"

#### Blindly Believing really hard no matter what?

#### Studying? Knowing more about God?

- Good to know about... but the people who killed Jesus knew a whole lot ABOUT God

#### Being nice...Love? Good.

- Being cool with the people who are cool with me... (Everybody does that)
- What does love mean? How do we know what it looks like?

#### Being like Jesus...great. How? quit our jobs, walk around town talking about the KoG?

- Stand on street corner preaching?
- Make some whips and turn over some tables of things we disagree with?

And... If honest... A lot of us don't have a lot of time to think about... just trying to get through each week or even just today...let's just try to do our best and God will understand right?

So what does it really mean to follow Jesus in 21st century?...

Find answer from looking at what it was like to follow him in the 1st century... insight from his interactions with first followers.

Discover... **Following Jesus starts with knowing and being known by Jesus.**

**GOD:**

Luke/Historian/60-70 AD

**V. 1-3**

- Must of been good, deep teaching right?
- Mysteries of God from God.
- But didn't record it... why?
- **Knowing Jesus is more than knowing about Jesus.**
- I follow president on SM. I know a lot about him, read his thoughts on topics, But I don't really KNOW him. I don't know how thinks... to do so I'd have to spend time with him, see how he responds in real life situations, priorities, catches attention or motivates... actually experience a personal relationship w/ him.

**V. 4** Why? Hungry? No.

- Wanted Simon to know who he was
- **Jesus wants us to know Him personally**... why... deep question... b/c he loves us and wants us to experience the life that love creates.

**V. 5**

"Master"- know about... respect... good teacher/holy man/rabbi

A lot of people stop there... Don't actually say this out loud but the inner feeling is...

*"You're a good teacher but... you don't really know my life, you don't really know what you're talking about..."*

*Look I'm busy... I'll listen to what you say... I'll try and be nicer, but don't ask me to do something uncomfortable or actually change something... or make some type of life-commitment"*

But Peter took one step further... "I'll try it."

Didn't know much about Jesus but was **willing** to try

**Being willing is the beginning of knowing Jesus.**

"I'm willing to look into this. See if you are real. Keep pulling the thread no matter where it leads"

I feel like you're asking me to take a step/some change... I'm willing to give it a try.

I'll try a small group/watch an episode/read some bible verses. Etc.

**V. 6-7**

Ah ok... if I'm willing to obey Jesus he'll give me more than I want? No. Talk about that in future episode.

Wanted to get Simon's attention... used what Simon knew... fishing.

Jesus shows us who he is in our own language. **Jesus uses who we are to show us who he is.**

- How is he showing you who he is?
- Me: humor... dangerous questions (what if)... doing things out of ordinary... kids... wife...
- Kids... never stop loving you. Annoying but funny... God likes me.

How would you respond if Simon?

### **v. 8**

Simon knew fishing... so he knew what this meant...

"LORD"- not yet saying God. (He wasn't there yet. Maybe you're not either- that's ok)... more than just a respected teacher. A holy man from God.

Knew enough to know that the un-holy cannot be in the presence of the holy.

"I don't know much about you but I know I'm not good enough to be around you... i'm not the type of person this kind of thing/person/attention is for"

Funny, whether JF or not... all feel this at some level... a sense of if there is a God ... unworthy, even unacceptable to him... Why?

Jesus' response?

### **v.10b**

"Oh you have a past? I had no idea. You're not into religion... You're not perfect? I'm shocked."

No...

"First... Calm down... stopping being afraid... Yeah ok... I know exactly who you are... but you don't have to be afraid. I'm calling you to be WITH me just as you are... Follow me and watch the difference I will make in you.

Jesus accepted him for who he was and saw him for who he could/would be.

**Jesus knows and accepts us for who we are, but sees us for who we can be.**

"Your life is about to change... I have something more for you... you will be catching people for life. You will be a life bringer."

Starting point of entirely new life Simon Peter could have never imagined.

What if Peter chose to stay with the boat? Said, "Eh that sounds cool... but I know fishing... I'll stay here. How would the course of his life been different? World history?"

Being willing to take the first steps has a ripple effect we can never know at the time.

## **YOU:**

### **Jesus knows you**

- He knows you are more than your job
- Family origin
- Successes/failures/regrets
- You are more than your past
- What other people say you are

### **Jesus accepts you**

- Loves you
- See you as who you can/will be through him
- Wants you to know him and experience the life he offers

### **Jesus invites you**

#### **First Step...**

- Willing to look into
- Willing to pray
- Willing to read
- Willing to discuss?
- Willing to FOLLOW?

#### **Deeper relationship...**

Read but apply...

Study is good... learning is good... but it has to lead somewhere... it has to lead to a living relationship/walking everyday together.

Knowing has to turn into action... that action? Trust

This is what it means to FOLLOW.

### **The more you choose to trust Jesus the more you will come to know Jesus.**

How exactly? I don't know... I wanted to give you a "do this to know Jesus more" ... but it's different for each of us...

Peter took a huge step of trust when he "left everything" and followed Jesus. Jesus may not be calling you to leave everything to follow Him, but there is always something we must leave behind. It may be prior beliefs, personal preferences, present interests or just your self-sufficiency and unbelief. Might require career change (Simon)... probably not... might involve how you see yourself, those around you, and your role in their lives. How you see your current career...

Might mean being willing to see yourself and your future self as he sees you. And accepting who you are and who you can become by Following Him .

**The real question is... are you willing to know Jesus more?**

**Pray: "Jesus, help me know you deeper."**

**Read a Gospel** (Mark is the shortest) For now (this time) Just focus on WHY he does things (not just WHAT)... search for his heart. Get to know him on a deeper level... with partner?

**WE:**

Following Jesus is almost always simpler than we make it out to be

It doesn't require special advanced knowledge, ignoring our lives around us, being churchy, rigid rule follower...

We just have to be willing to take the first steps... be willing to know him for who he really is... be willing to see ourselves as he really sees us.

With all our short-comings, sins and all along with changes following Jesus is bringing about. Trust Him in your daily path. Walk with Him, follow (do) what He says, go where He leads.

**The closer we know Jesus the simpler it becomes to follow him.**

#### Questions

1. In what way(s) have you seen God working in your life & world this week?
2. Jesus knows you, accepts you, and invites you. Is one of those easy or difficult for you in some way? Why is that?
3. Read Philippians 3:8-11. How would you describe "knowing Jesus?" Why do you think Paul saw it as having "infinite value?"
4. What would knowing Jesus closer look like in your life right now? How can your group pray for you?