



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

“BE 1”

Ps. James Lowe – March 1, 2015

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- What's the first idea that comes to your mind when you hear the word “disciple”?
- What is something that you would love to learn?
- Growing up, what did you want to be “when you grow up”? How did that change over time?

WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at <http://www.bethelworld.org>

Jesus is calling us today, as he was calling Peter, to be a disciple; that is to follow him and help others to follow him. There are all kind of disciples, but the ones the Scripture refer to are disciples who wholeheartedly follow Jesus. The word disciple appears in the New Testament 299 times, while the word Christians appears only three times. This very fact tells us what's God's calling is over our lives. When Jesus gave us the Great Commission, he underlined the fact that a disciple is not just who you are, but what you do: teaching people to do ALL things He has commanded us. **Luke 5** gives us a biblical setting of the process of becoming and being a disciple.

On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. 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. And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” And Simon answered, “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.” And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. 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. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, 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." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

From this passage, we can see 3 clear steps through which Jesus walked Peter until he became a disciple. If you want to BE 1, you need to walk through the same steps as well.

1. Engage: In this passage, the first thing we see is Jesus engage Peter even when Peter was working his own agenda. This is not the first occasion where Peter encountered Jesus. He had received God's message and calling before, but in this occasion Peter is called to be consumed with the work of God. Jesus kept pursuing Peter, and Jesus keeps pursuing us until the time comes that we decide to fully follow him. After the crowd was gone, Jesus addressed Peter individually. Jesus pulls us from the crowd to deal with us personally. We can try to hide, even in the crowds of the church, but God is calling us at a personal level to address our own doubts and fears. One of the reasons we insist on small Life Groups settings, is so Jesus can engage us at a personal level.
2. Establish: Even Peter had heard from Jesus. He had heard what John the Baptist had said. He had heard what his brother Andrew had said about Jesus. He had even met Jesus personally and heard him preach: Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand. Peter had heard the message before, but the foundation of Lordship wasn't established in his life yet. He was living a busy life and was trying to give Jesus his leftovers. Once Peter had surrendered his boat to Jesus, Jesus told him to pull from the shore. Jesus wanted to make sure that the message to the group had gotten down to Peter personally. It is there, in the intimacy of a boat in the middle of the sea, with just a few friends with him, that Peter witnesses the power and authority of Jesus, confesses his sins, and recognizes that Jesus is Lord. Likewise, we all have to come to a moment where we personally confess our sins, and recognize that only Jesus is Lord and Savior.
3. Equip and empower: After Jesus had shown Peter who He is, He called him to become a fisher of men. Jesus used what Peter knew: to fish, to equip him to share the very Gospel that had reached him. Jesus showed him the model of how to reach others. Jesus didn't condemn Peter for not having responded earlier, didn't affirm his sinful nature, nor rebuke him for his fears. It is Jesus' goodness that leads Peter to repentance. Jesus lifted Peter up after he had surrendered, and called him to be a fisher of men. This time Peter left everything and made Christ his priority. Jesus equips us for a purpose. We may come to God for ourselves, but when we surrender to Christ, we understand that it's not about us but about God and His purpose. It's not just what there is in it for us, but what there is for God's Kingdom. We may have fears that hold us back from being disciples, but Jesus wants to tear those fears down, because his purpose is good for us.

Be 1 who is available to God's call. Be 1 who is summited. Be 1 who is equipped to do God's work.

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.

- Have you had a personal encounter with Jesus where you received His call to become His disciple? If yes, describe that encounter. If not, would you like to respond to His calling now? Are there changes that God is calling you make?
- Where are you in the process of the Lordship of Jesus being established in your life?
- How has God been equipping you to be able to reach out to others?

PRAYER (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- That God will reveal himself to us so we may follow Him with all our hearts.
- That God will take any fear we may have to follow Him completely away, and we will have the understanding and desire to keep everything He has commanded us.
- That God will equip us to accomplish the purpose he has set before us.