



Life Group Study Notes

"The Net Work"

Ps. James Lowe - September 11, 2016

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

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

- If you could have any job in the world, what would you want it to be?
- What is one of the best things about your current job or duties?
- What do you hope to be doing ten years from now?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Matthew 4:18-21 ESV

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them.

The response of Peter and Andrew to Jesus was immediate. They were called to give up their own priorities and concerns as being most important and to embrace those belonging to Jesus. Jesus was calling them to bring God's good news of the salvation and redemption that would come through Jesus to people everywhere. And he was calling them to teach others to follow and obey him.

Luke 5:1-11 ESV

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.

PEOPLE - Following Jesus means we will put great value on people and will want them to know the Savior who alone reconciles us to God. We are to make ourselves available to God to serve people and bring God's salvation to them. God loves and cares about people even though we are all sinful.

POSSESSIONS - Following Jesus means we will give of our possessions for the furtherance of God's kingdom. This involves giving financially for the advancement of the Gospel through the church and Christian missions. It involves using our possessions to help others. It may involve forgoing possessions in order to pursue God's will to engage in his mission. God's love for people meant that he was willing to give his own Son as a sacrifice for our sins.

PURPOSE - Following Jesus means we will embrace his purpose and continue to grow in our understanding of his mission. God didn't leave humans to themselves even though we all turned away from him. His love for us compelled him to have a plan of redemption in order to still ultimately fulfill his good purposes for the human race.

To summarize, God wants each of us as his followers to love others by bringing the Good News to them and by helping them grow in their relationship with him. (This is simply what it means to engage in evangelism and discipleship.) God's love for others is the same as the love he showed us when God reached out to us before we knew him.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

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

- Have you been captured by Jesus' concern for people? If so, has this translated into talking to people about God's salvation through Jesus?
- How has God led you to give of your possessions for the furtherance of his kingdom? Has any past personal act of giving opened a door for the Gospel?
- What is your understanding of God's purposes as expressed in the Gospel? How have you been building your life to align with his his mission to spread the Gospel and make disciples?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

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

- Ask God to search our hearts and reveal to us anything that hinders our love and concern for others, and our willingness to spread the Gospel and help others follow Jesus.
- Ask God if he wants any changes in the way we approach and dispose of our income and possessions.
- Ask God to give us a greater understanding of his mission, and pray a prayer of commitment to walk in his purposes with all our hearts.