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Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Called to Follow Luke 5:1-11

Lesson Background and Introduction

Although Jesus had been driven out of Nazareth, He went on preaching and healing throughout the region of Galilee-including healing Simon Peter's mother-in-law (Luke 4:38-39). Already, the crowds were becoming an issue. The closing verses of Luke 4 relate that Jesus had gone to a solitary place, probably to pray, and that the crowds had found Him and insisted He stay with them. However, "he said, 'I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent'" (Luke 4:43). And as Luke 5 opens, we find Jesus again proclaiming the Good News. In fact, the size of the crowd forced Him to preach from a boat on the Lake of Gennesaret-better known as the Sea of Galilee. And it is in this unusual situation where Jesus calls His first disciples. Jesus didn't force the disciples to follow Him; they chose to follow Him. The disciples didn't stop to ask Jesus questions about where they would be going or what they would be doing. They trusted Him and immediately followed Him. Jesus is calling us immediately to follow Him and participate in His mission of drawing all men to God through salvation in Jesus. This doesn't mean going around with a Bible and preaching to everyone we meet, although God may call us specifically to share His Word with others. However, one way we can participate in Jesus' mission is by being a light for Jesus wherever we go. A light draws people away from darkness and into the right direction.

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

Catching Fish - After Jesus finished His teaching from Peter's boat, He offered a thank you gift. He challenged Peter to push away from the shore and let down his nets. Initially, Peter protested—they had fished all night without any success. In spite of Peter's apprehensions, he called Jesus "Master," which meant you are the boss, and he obeyed Jesus' instructions. Their catch was enormous, so large other fishermen had to lend a hand.

Catching People - Jesus' teaching on Peter's boat and the miraculous catch of fish caused Peter to realize Jesus' holiness and his own unworthiness. Peter felt so undeserving of being in His presence. Jesus understood Peter's fear and inner turmoil. But the Savior's mission was for all to realize the unfailing love of the Father. Jesus came to deal with man's sin issue so they could draw near to God and get to know Him. Jesus used this occasion of the overabundance of fish to help Peter understand God's calling on his life. Jesus said to Peter that this event was only a depiction of the true "catching" Peter was going to do—the catching of people through the good news of the Gospel. That day Peter walked away from his fishing business and became one of Jesus' disciples.

God's Ambassador - The call to Christian discipleship is still being extended. Becoming a believer in Christ means you become His "ambassador" (2 Cor. 5:20). Paul used this term to bring home several points. As believers walk daily on this earth, they are to be Christ's representatives. God's people are to stand up for His principles, especially the Gospel message. Christians answer Christ's call to be reconciled to God. Now they are to participate in the ministry with the goal in mind of helping all humanity to understand why Jesus came and died. It's the Christian's job to get the message out: God longs to reconcile everyone to Himself.

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

God asks His children to follow the Leader

POEM FOR THE WEEK:

In fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the way;
What He says we will do, where He sends we will go;
Never fear, only trust and obey.
—Sammis

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

At the command of the Lord they remained encamped, and at the command of the Lord they journeyed; they kept the charge of the Lord, at the command of the Lord by the hand of Moses

(Num 9:23 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Aug 19, 2014)

Series: Call in the New Testament

UNIT: Jesus and Calls in His Ministry

NEXT WEEK

Called in Authority (Mark 2:1-12)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Teaching Before the Calling (Luke 5:1-3)

Teaching to bear the Word (1)

- Hearing so that belief is confirmed (Rom 10:14)
- Hearing so that faith is strengthened (Rom 10:17)
- Hearing because it is the Word of God (1 Thess 2:13)
- Hearing because it is a blessing (Luke 11:28)
- Hearing because it is the way to grow spiritually (1 Peter 2:2)

Teaching during daily routine (2)

- During daily routine of sleeping (1 Sam 3:7-10)
- During daily routine of working (Luke 5:27-28)
- During daily routine of preparing meals (1 Kings 17:7-16)
- During daily activities (Matt 24:37-40)

Teaching of the Word (3)

- Teaching the gospel (Rom 10:14)
- Teaching about the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:2)
- Teaching the Word of God (1 Thess 2:13)
- Teaching about the Holy Spirit (Rev 2:7)

Miracle Before the Calling (Luke 5:4-9)

Miraculous request (4)

- Miraculous request of the jars of oil (2 Kings 4:3-7)
- Miraculous request of two fish feeding thousands (Matt 14:17-20)
- Miraculous request of Elijah to the widow and son (1 Kings 17:13-15)
- Miraculous request of Elisha and the striking of the ground (2 Kings 13:18-19)

Obedience to the request (5-7)

- Obedience to show faith (Gen 22:9-12)
- Obedience to witness (Acts 8:26-31)
- Obedience regardless of prejudice (Acts 10:19-23)
- Obedience to follow Jesus (Matt 9:9)

Amazement of the miracle (8-9)

- Amazement that helps spread the news of the goodness of God (Luke 4:36-37)
- Amazement at the greatness of God (Luke 9:43)
- Amazement at how much God loves (John 5:20)
- Amazement at how God does everything perfectly (Mark 7:37)
- Amazement that should lead to faith in God (John 12:9-11)

Following After the Calling (Luke 5:10-11)

Call to follow (10)

- A call to receive life (Deut. 30:15)
- A call to serve (Joshua 24:15)
- A call to follow (1 Kings 18:21)
- A call to bear fruit (John 15:16)
- A call to take on apostolic ministry (Acts 1:24-25)
- A call for apostleship made by God (Gal 1:1)

Following without hesitation (11)

- Following Jesus represents the right priorities in life (Matt 16:24-26)
- Following Jesus represents safety in the presence of Jesus (John 12:26)
- Following Jesus assures eternal victory (John 10:27-28)
- Following Jesus means realizing that Jesus is the only way (John 6:67-68)