

LUKE 5: 3 CALLS OF JESUS ON OUR LIVES

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Luke 5 has become one of my favorite passages this past year. It's a passage that I use often to train churches around the priorities of living life as a family of disciples and being a family of disciples whose primary purpose is to fish for men and women together.

LIFE WITH JESUS AT THE CENTER

This vision gets developed by Jesus throughout Luke 5 through what I see as 3 significant calls of Jesus on our lives as his disciples. Jesus begins the chapter by working a powerful miracle to reinforce his authority, and he did it in a way that would speak to the hearts of these men in the deepest sense. He helped these experienced fishermen make probably the largest catch of fish they had ever seen, when they had spent the entire previous night catching nothing!

After this, we see Jesus making his first call for them to lay down their nets, their vocations, their families, **to lay down everything that is of most importance, and to make him the center of their lives.** That same call is on our lives, for us to lay down our "nets" and follow him and make him the centerpiece of our lives.

LIFE IN A COMMUNITY AS A FAMILY

The next call is not as directly stated, but I believe is clearly assumed by these men, as it should be for us. **Jesus was calling them to follow him, not as a bunch of individuals, but as a community that would live like family.** He would be their rabbi, their teacher, which we see them state later, and they would be his community of disciples. They would follow him TOGETHER and learn to walk in his ways TOGETHER. Jesus second call on our lives is to live in community like family, with him at the center. Following him is a communal, family-like calling. It is not primarily individual, isolated, and private.

LIFE AS A FAMILY ON MISSION TO FISH FOR MEN

Finally, we see the third significant call of Jesus clearly stated in verse 10. Jesus not only calls these first disciples to live in community as family, and a family with him at the center, but also a family that will work together on mission to fish for men. Jesus is making the goal of this life following him very clear in verse 10. **You are going to become "fishers of men" and we are going to fish together! We are going to become a family of fishermen that work together to make disciples of lost and broken people.**

This third call hasn't changed for us. As disciples of Jesus, he has the same vision for us, the same expectation for us, and the same call on our lives. He desires for us to live life with him at the center, to live like family with other disciples, and to work together as a family of fishermen to make disciples of lost people that are far from God.



EXPERIENCING THE 3 CALLS

After these 3 calls from Jesus, I love what we see happen in verse 11. Jesus and the disciples don't hunker down and begin a 6 to 12 month formal training process. They immediately take off to a nearby village to start fishing for men together! Immediately! **Right away Jesus takes them on mission to experience what life is going to be like following Him and influencing people with the Good News of the Kingdom.**

Jesus shows them how to love and care for and pray for the sick, how to talk with people that have questions and that even oppose them, how to rest and seek the help of the Father through prayer, and how to pursue people like Levi and his tax collector friends that were considered some of the worst of the worst. And, he shows them how to do it together as a COMMUNITY of disciples! Finally, Jesus reminds the Pharisees what he and his disciples are there to do and what their ultimate purpose is - to bring healing to sick and sinful people. Healthy people don't need a doctor. Sick people do! Jesus calls us and our churches to these same 3 priorities today!

