

The Discippler's Call

Discipler's are called by God. Contrary to common thought, our vocation is not our occupation, but God's Call on our lives. (Vocation = *vocare* = call) My occupation may be a Water Microbiologist, but my 'vocation' is to serve God by equipping disciplers for Christ. Your occupation may be a teacher, a carpenter or a nurse, but as a discipler, God has *called* you to continue the work of Christ. As members of Christ's Body, we are His representatives on Earth, and the vicarious recipients of His Call as found in Luke 4:18-19

Jesus' Call

- 14 And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit,
and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district.
- 15 And He *began* teaching in their synagogues
and was praised by all.
- 16 And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up;
and as was His custom,
He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read.
- 17 And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him.
And He opened the book and found the place where it was written,
- 18 "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME,
BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME
TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR.
HE HAS SENT ME
TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES,
AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND,
TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED,
19 TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD." ...
- 21 ...And He began to say to them,
"Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."
Luke 4:14-19, 21

- ✓ Underline all that the Spirit of the LORD anointed Jesus to do.

Interpretation (Luke 4:14-19)

1. What is the significance of Jesus' anointing by the Holy Spirit? _____

God's All Volunteer Army
In one of his lectures on church leadership, Dr. Howard Hendricks humorously concluded that pastors were "paid to be good, but their people were 'good for nothing'". Just because we aren't being paid doesn't mean we're exempt from ministry. The last time I checked, Jesus didn't draw a salary, either! What better way to show our appreciation for all that God has done for us than by serving Him as an act of our love for Him! He'll appreciate that ... guaranteed!

 Isaiah 11:2-5

Shocking Pronouncement
To this day, it is not easy to predict earthquakes before they occur. The synagogue members in Nazareth, who witnessed Jesus' reading of Isaiah, were the first to feel the shock wave of His pronouncement claiming to be God's Anointed that still reverberates around the world!

In Ancient Israel, three individuals were anointed before the people. The prophet, the priest and the king. Jesus fulfilled all three roles:
As God's Prophet He proclaims
God's Word To the people,
As God's Priest He stands
before God For His people,
As God's King He will rule Over
the people.

2. What is meant by the following:

'To preach the Gospel to the poor' _____

'To proclaim release to the captives' _____

'(To proclaim) recovery of sight to the blind' _____

'To set free those who are oppressed' _____

'To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord' _____

3. If you are a Christian, God has anointed you with His Spirit as well. Make a list of reasons why.:

At this simple reading, Jesus pronounced Himself as God's Messiah (Anointed), a Truth not immediately understood by those who first heard it. But when it was, 'all hell broke loose' ... literally! He also proclaimed God's Call on His life and the ministry He would soon undertake, both of which He commissioned His disciples to fulfill before His return.

A thousand years from now, when the memories of this life will have dimmed in the brilliance of God's presence, it will matter not how successful, famous or rich we became but how we responded to God's Call and fulfilled His ministry to 'proclaim the favorable year of the Lord!'

Just as with Jesus' often-times cryptic sayings, these reasons for His anointing can be interpreted both literally and figuratively.

The poor are those who are financially and spiritually in need. They often respond more readily for they recognize the Gospel's many blessings.

The captives are imprisoned in manmade, as well as spiritual, strongholds. The Gospel frees them from Satan's bondage.

The blind are those who cannot see, both physically and spiritually. Jesus heals both. One to see the trees made by God and the other to see God who made the trees. The only person Jesus could not heal were those who will not see.

The oppressed are afflicted by their fears. Christ liberates them by replacing fear with faith, and a God given joy that cannot be taken away.

The '**favorable year of the Lord**' is the *Year of Jubilee* when debts were canceled and wrongs made right. It is this brief moment of grace when people who respond to the Gospel are set free from the debt of Sin, and restored to their rightful inheritance and relationship with God.

Jesus stopped abruptly before reading the remainder of the text, 'And the day of vengeance of our God', ... a day when this period of grace ends and the just payment will be required of all who reject God's offer of forgiveness.

The Disciplers' Call

Even as Jesus answered His Father's Call, He called others to join Him.

- 1 Now it happened that while the crowd was pressing around Him and listening to the word of God, He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret;
- 2 and He saw two boats lying at the edge of the lake; but the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets.
- 3 And He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little way from the land. And He sat down and *began* teaching the people from the boat.
- 4 When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch."
- 5 Simon answered and said, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will do as You say *and* let down the nets.
- 6 When they had done this, they enclosed a great quantity of fish, and their nets *began* to break;
- 7 so they signaled to their partners in the other boat for them to come and help them. And they came and filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink.
- 8 But when Simon Peter saw *that*, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"
- 9 For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken;
- 10 and so also *were* James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men."
- 11 When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

Luke 5:1-11

1. What is the significance of the fishermen washing their nets? _____

- 2.. What do you think Jesus might have been teaching the people? _____

Observations

- ✓ Underline what the crowds were doing. (v 1)
- ✓ Circle what the fishermen were doing. (v 2)
- ✓ Circle whose boat Jesus sat in. Underline what He did from it. (v 3)
- ✓ Underline what Jesus asked Simon to do. (v 4)
- ✓ Circle Simon's two complaints. Underline what he would do. (v 5)
- ✓ Underline what they enclosed. Circle what happened next. (v 6)
- ✓ Underline who they signaled to. Circle what they filled. Circle what the boats did. (v 7)
- ✓ Circle why Simon fell at Jesus' feet. (v 8) Underline what he told Jesus.
- ✓ Underline why Simon said what he did. (v 9)
- ✓ Underline what Jesus said to Simon. (v 10)
- ✓ Circle the two things they did after arriving back on land. (v 11)

 John 21:3-17

The fishermen were already washing their nets, signifying they were cleaning up after a night of fishing.

As for Jesus' teaching subject, one can only guess but that He was teaching the people about God's Kingdom and trusting in the LORD. Those were His favorite topics.

3. Why did Jesus ask Simon to go back and let down their nets? _____

4. What does Simon's answer reveal about him as a person? _____

5. Why did Simon confess his sinfulness after seeing the amazing catch? _____

6. Explain Jesus' call to Simon. _____

7. How do you explain the fishermen's response? _____

Are you amazed as I am at Simon's response? Would you be willing to leave *everything* to follow an itinerant preacher? You might, if you were convinced that the He was God's Anointed come to establish His eternal Kingdom. Only then will the temporal lose its value in our eyes.

Perhaps by His teachings, or certainly by the miraculous catch, Simon was confronted by his own sinfulness in contrast to who Jesus was. But that Christ would extend His hand and invite him to be a part of His Kingdom was an offer Simon could not refuse, even if it meant turning his back on everything else.

The Call to be a discipler is a call to see things as they truly are. Only in the light of the eternal can we comprehend the insignificance of the things of this world and the inestimable worth of the one to come. This world, and all that is in it, will perish, but Jesus' Kingdom will stand forever! Those who respond to Christ's call have discerned the worth of His Kingdom and the folly of rejecting it.

God is calling people just like you and me to stand with Him in this generation, to denounce the follies of this world and to proclaim the eternal blessings in the next. Respond to His call by affirming the following:

"In answer to the LORD's Call, I renounce the vanities of this world and affirm my allegiance to His Kingdom and all it values; pledging to follow Him wherever He leads and proclaiming to all people His greatness and goodness, that they might come to know His love, forgiveness and grace."

Jesus did not live in the moment ... He lived in the eternal. Everything He did had a divine purpose, including the request to return to the Lake. In that experience was His true identity revealed, causing Simon to recognize his utter sinfulness in the presence of such a holy Person. It was the opening Jesus sought, and utilized to call Simon away from the mundane to the miraculous.

Jesus seeks the contrite, for it is their hearts that are most open to His leading. The penitent who apprehends the eternal will alone be willing to forsake the things of this world for the next. Such are the people Jesus calls.

The Discippler's Call

List key Truths and Principles you learned from this study:

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

In light of what you have learned, list what you will do.

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

Memorize 

*"but you will receive power
when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;
and you shall be My witnesses
both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria,
and even to the remotest part of the earth."
Acts 1:8*