

Luke 5:1-16 – 12 February 2023

“You Know Better Than I”

Introduction

- *Chap 4 we began to see *operation* of Jesus ministry
- *Jesus has begun teaching people of His identity
- *Today we focus on the call to put our faith in Jesus
- *What is this call?
 - *Not just to trust Jesus, but to stop trusting self
 - *Not just to consider Jesus, but to stop considering self
 - *Not just to follow Jesus, but to stop living for self
- *Jesus hasn't asked to add Himself to our lives, but for us to replace us with Him

Today, we'll see 6 ways that trusting Jesus is better than trusting ourselves

1st way is that He's better than trusting our experience (Vs 1-7)

Read Vs 1 – *Peter's Great Catch of Fish*

1. Gennesaret is the Sea of Galilee; Capernaum is on the water where Simon Peter lives
2. Left chap 4 w/ many just wanting temp healing
3. As Jesus keeps emphasizing the eternal Kingdom, they're starting to get it; there's something bigger

Read Vs 2-3

1. Again, the emphasis on teaching the Kingdom
 - a. The Kingdom begins by entering into it
2. Simon already met Jesus, but hasn't been asked to follow Him yet

Read Vs 4-5

1. Peter is experienced generational fisherman, but he's also already seen his mother-in-law healed
2. Parable of Two Sons (Read Matt 21:28-31)

- a. Even when there's delay/doubt; obedience in faith to the call of Jesus is what brings us in
 - b. There're 2 answers that would gain blessing
 - i. The other son: "I go, sir, but he went not"
 - ii. Like Peter in Acts 10:14: "Not so, Lord"
3. When looking to follow Jesus, there is often a divide between our experience and simple faith
- a. Experience says "it only works this way"; faith says "God used many methods"
 - b. Experience says "I know what I'm doing"; faith says "God knows what He's doing"
 - c. Faith obeys even when we don't understand
4. "Nevertheless, at Thy Word": Live by the Word
- a. We've always been meant to be a people that live by faith in the Word & not by image

Read Vs 6-7

1. Blessing isn't realized unless faith is activated
2. "Net was at the point of braking" – Interesting
 - a. Under Law nets break at the hearing of faith
 - b. Under grace there's another great catch of fish (John 21) and the net is NOT broken

2nd way is that He's better than trusting our ability (Vs 8-10a)

Read Vs 8-10a

1. We become aware of 2 things when we see God's grace in action
 - a. #1: We see ourselves for who you really are; we're so much lower than we thought
 - i. Peter's forced to reflect on his own sin of doubt & prideful independence not b/c Jesus scolded him but b/c he received grace
 - ii. When God was revealed to Job, he finally admitted, (Read Job 40:4) "I am vile..."
 - b. #2: We see Jesus for who He really is; He's so much higher than we thought
 - i. Notice Peter started calling Jesus a common word for teacher or master (vs 5) & now calls Him *kurios* or supreme Lord
 - ii. When Isaiah saw the Lord on His throne, he said (Read Isa 6:5), "woe is me..."

2. Jesus brought Peter to the peak of his earthly profession, then called him to follow
 - a. “Oh, if I could only get X then I’d be happy”
 - b. If we saw the peak of our earthly success, we’d see the dissatisfaction in it

3rd way is that He’s better than trusting our pursuits (Vs 10b-11)

Read Vs 10b-11

1. The Christian has higher goals than just to get a little money and comfort in this life
 - a. We’re called to persuade men (Read II Cor 5:11) offering them eternal life thru Christ
2. Matthew’s rendering of this event in Matt 4:19, Jesus says, “I will make you fishers of men”
 - a. Our part is to turn our passions away from earthly pursuits and toward eternal ones
 - b. God’s part is to “make us”
 - i. He didn’t say, go become fishers of men, but “I will make you fishers of men”

4th way is that He's better than trusting our attitude (Vs 12-13)

Read Vs 12 – *Leper Cured & Sent To Priest*

1. He has the right approach in faith coming from outside of the city to Jesus (in the city)
2. Approach of faithful steps brings you to Jesus
3. Approach of faithful words is what opens the door for God to act, deliver and heal
 - a. “If Thou wilt” – that’s the purpose of prayer

Read Vs 13

1. Mark 1:41 says that Jesus was “moved with compassion”
 - a. We too need to be led of compassion
2. Others are seen as being moved by anger/envy
 - a. Matt 20:24 – James & John’s mum asked Jesus for them to be the greatest & other 10 we’re moved with indignation
 - b. Act 7:9 – Stephen says patriarchs were moved w/ envy when they sold Joseph into Egypt

3. Jesus was often moved with compassion b/c He saw our helplessness as sheep without a shepherd
 - a. Read I Pet 3:8 – Showing compassion is great reminder that we're all equally helpless w/o God
 - b. Turn to Matt 18:23-35 – How can we grow in compassion for others? First see how much Jesus has forgiven us
 - c. Read I John 3:17 – If we've experienced the love of God within, then we have it to give
4. So the incurable has been cured, all b/c Jesus both had the power AND the compassion to heal

5th way is that He's better than trusting our nature (Vs 14)

Read Vs 14

1. Leprosy is the primary Biblical picture of sin
 - a. They were forced to live apart from the rest
 - b. It's incurable apart from a divine work
2. Why'd Jesus tell this healed man to go to priest?
 - a. Lev 14 describe the ritual to perform in the event of a leper being healed!
 - b. This former leper showing up to the priest would have been quite a big shock to the priest
3. What is the ritual to remember the cleansing?
 - a. Turn to Lev 14:1-7
 - b. Cedar wood—the cross, Scarlet—the blood
 - c. Hyssop – to apply the blood
 - d. Earthen vessel – human body for God
 - e. Running water – the Holy Spirit
 - f. 2 birds – b/c couldn't do actual resurrection
 - g. Open Field – the world
4. Even healings are to point people to message of salvation & life from the dead thru Jesus Christ

6th way is that He's better than trusting our reputation (Vs 15-16)

Read Vs 15-16

1. Mark 1:45 says the man began to “blaze it abroad” what Jesus had done for him
2. Why would Jesus tell him to tell no one if He knew that man would tell everyone?
 - a. This demonstrates the irresistible nature of the effects of salvation on a life!
 - b. There's no salvation if there's no desire to share it!
3. In the Great Commission we're told to tell everyone of the saving work of Jesus
4. Let it not be that...
 - a. The leper who received temporary healing & was told to tell no one yet told everyone
 - b. While we who've received permanent healing & was told to tell everyone yet we tell no one
5. When touched by Jesus, you're no longer concern w/ how they judge you; you're just interested in asking them to judge Jesus

Conclusion

The Lord is challenging us today to consider whether we actually believe that He is better than us

1. **Do we believe that He knows better than our experience would tell us?**
2. **Do we believe that He has the ability to success even when we don't have the ability?**
3. **Do we believe that His pursuits & goals are better than our pursuits & goals?**
4. **Do we believe that His attitude of compassion is better than our attitude?**
5. **Do we believe that His nature, as the Godman, is so much better than our nature as sinful man**
6. **Do we believe that His reputation is the one worth exalting and not our own?**

Can we truly say, 'Lord, You know better than I'