### FORSAKING ALL TO FOLLOW JESUS CHRIST

LUKE 5:1-11

#### <u>Luke 5:1-11 KJV</u>

1 And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret,

<sup>2</sup> And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets.

<sup>3</sup> And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.

<sup>4</sup> Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. <sup>5</sup> And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

<sup>6</sup> And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. <sup>7</sup> And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup> When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.

<sup>9</sup> For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken: <sup>10</sup> And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.

#### <sup>11</sup> And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.

In Luke 5:11, After they brought their boats to land the Bible says they forsook all and followed Jesus.

Matt. 4:20, says "straightway or immediately" they left all and followed Jesus. They left the largest catch of fish they had ever had. They left their boats and their profitable occupation to follow the promised Messiah, the Savior of the world.

To them it made perfect sense. There was nothing to be debated. No questions to ask. Jesus was the Messiah, the promised one and the natural reaction of a believer was to leave all and become His disciple and that is what they did. True belief is a faith that brings salvation. True belief brings a total commitment to Christ!

#### <u> 63-0717 - A Prisoner</u>

184 Remember, all other times, what He's done. He's always had to take a man and make him a prisoner to Him, forsake his own. He had to forsake everything that he knowed, forget all of his trainings, everything, in order to know the will of God, and to follow God. 185 He can't follow anything that man has got to do, and God, the same time. It's too contrary, one to another. You can't be going east and west at the same time.

You can't be going right and left at the same time. You can't be doing right and wrong at the same time. You can't be following man and God at the same time. No, sir. You're either following God or following man. 186 Now, then, if you are following God and have submitted yourself to God, then you become a prisoner to that God, to that Word, to that will. No matter what anything else says, you become a-a prisoner to It.

### William Booth 1829-1916.

"The chief danger that confronts the coming century will be religion without the Holy Ghost, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, politics without God, heaven without hell."

#### Hebrews 11:24-27 (KJV)

<sup>24</sup> By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

<sup>25</sup> Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

<sup>26</sup> Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect

# <sup>27</sup> By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

#### Luke 5:27-29 (KJV)

<sup>27</sup> And after these things he went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, Follow me.
<sup>28</sup> And he left all, rose up, and followed him.

<sup>29</sup> And Levi made him a great feast in his own house: and there was a great company of publicans and of others that sat down with them.

#### <u>Matthew 4:18-22 (KJV)</u>

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. <sup>19</sup> And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

- <sup>20</sup> And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.
- <sup>21</sup> And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. <sup>22</sup> And they immediately left the ship and their father and followed him

#### Mark 1:16-20

<sup>16</sup> Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. <sup>17</sup> And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men. <sup>18</sup> And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him.

<sup>19</sup> And when he had gone a little farther thence, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending their nets.

<sup>20</sup> And straightway he called them: and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, and went after him.

#### <u>Luke 14:33 MEV</u>

#### <sup>33</sup> So likewise, <u>any of you who does not forsake all</u> that he has cannot be My disciple.

#### <u>1 John 2:15(KJV)</u>

<sup>15</sup> Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. One of the things about Christianity is that it was never intended to be merely an intellectual exercise.

Following Christ goes far beyond believing certain things about God.

It gets down to the issue of allegiance, and commitment, and change.

Am I willing to have my life changed to reflect God's agenda for me, or do I expect God to fit into my agenda?

Imagine one of the first disciples saying something like this: <u>"Yes Lord, I would love to come with you.</u> <u>But couldn't we just do everything in a way that</u> <u>won't interfere with the plans I already have in</u> <u>place right here?</u>"

# The Bible says.....they dropped their nets and left everything....and followed him.

It really boils down to "the nets" doesn't it? Those plans and that work which we consider to be so important.

But what if God calls you to drop that work for something better? Then what?

Many have heard the call and have made dramatic changes to correspond with God's call on their life. What about you? Have you ever made any significant changes to follow Jesus? Have you ever sensed that He was calling you to be His disciple? What did they really forsake? **1.** They forsook Hell for the joys of Heaven. 2. They forsook an empty life without God, for the eternal presence of God in their lives.

3. They forsook a life dominated by destructive influences of sin, for a life of victory over sin harmful result. 4. They forsook ignoring their Creator, to having Him lead their lives. 5. They forsook spiritually empty life, for a life in which they fulfilled God's plan for their lives. -The list goes on and on.

7. They gave up that which is temporal and will vanish away, for that which is eternal reserved in the heavens for every child of God.

Quote in my Bible: "He is not fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose, Only one life t'will soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last."

#### <u>Genesis 12 :1-5(KJV)</u>

1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

<sup>2</sup> And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: <sup>3</sup> And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

<sup>4</sup> So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. <sup>5</sup> And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came. What could possibly be more important in life than doing God's will? Is there even a close second to that monumental goal? Life is all about Jesus.

Those who know Him follow Him. Those who don't know Him do their own thing. It's natural to do your own thing. It is supernatural to follow Jesus.

#### <u>Mark 8:35 (KJV)</u>

<sup>35</sup> For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

## So are you still hanging on to control, or have you handed it over to Christ?

One of the toughest things for any of us to do is to hand our life over to the Lord, and then trust Him to have His own way in our life.

Our old nature fights hard to hang on to control. That is because we were not born into this world with a nature that wanted to follow Jesus. For this reason, we must be born again. (see John 3:1-18)

#### Luke 18:18-30(KJV)

<sup>18</sup> And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

<sup>19</sup> And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God.

<sup>20</sup> Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother.

<sup>21</sup> And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up.

<sup>22</sup> Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow

me.

<sup>23</sup> And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich. <sup>24</sup> And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

<sup>25</sup> For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

<sup>26</sup> And they that heard it said, Who then can be saved?

<sup>27</sup> And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.

<sup>28</sup> Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee.

<sup>29</sup> And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake,

<sup>30</sup> Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting.

## <u>1 Kings 19:19-21 (KJV)</u>

<sup>19</sup> So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him.

<sup>20</sup> And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again: for what have I done to thee? <sup>21</sup> And he returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him.

You must count the cost of following Jesus to include losing the people who are closest to you and whom have meant the most to you. If you are not willing to do this, then don't try to follow Jesus for you will fail. And if you say you are a follower of Jesus, yet don't obey this command, you hinder others from following him as well.

"Jesus is not one of many ways to approach God, nor is He the best of several ways; He is the only way." - A. W. Tozer

"If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference"

"Salvation apart from obedience is unknown in the sacred Scriptures... Apart from obedience there can be no salvation, for salvation without obedience is a self-contradictory impossibility." - A. W. Tozer

"The Bible is the inevitable outcome of God's continuous speech. It is the infallible declaration of His mind."

'If you believe what you like in the gospel, and reject what you dislike, it is not the gospel you believe, but yourself." (Augustine)

### <u> 62-0123 - Forsaking All</u>

Let's take, first, the father of faith, Abraham. Abraham forsook his own land, the property he owned, and everything else. He was called out of Chaldea, the city of Ur. And he forsook his land, his home, his people, and all, and followed God. He had to forsake everything, leave it behind. He forsook his—his land, his property down in Chaldea, in Ur.

He forsaken his property, and God gave him the whole promised land. God pays back with a lot of interest. He gave him. Up there that day, when He met him, He said, "Rise up, Abraham. Look east, north, west, south. I give it all to you. It's all yours."

### 65-1031A – Leadership

133 And this young man, he was educated, and he had religion, but he wanted Jesus. See, Moses would have been a much richer man than—than this young fellow would have been, 'cause he just had some money, probably farms and things like that, and maybe politics and so forth, but Moses was to be king over the earth. And he forsook all of that.

134 And you know what, children? When there is no Egypt, and when there is no treasures, there will still be a Moses, because he chose the right thing. See? He chose the right thing to lead him. 135 When there is no more big pyramids! You read about the pyramids in Egypt? One of these days, they'll be dust, under the atomic bomb. All the riches of the world, people will throw it in the

air, and scream, and say it's cankered into their flesh, and scream and howl. See, it will pass away. 136 But them who accept Jesus to lead them, they'll never die. They have Eternal Life. Though they die naturally here, Jesus will raise them up again. 137 You must make a choice. Your choice will determine what your eternal destination will be. Remember, Jesus asks each one of us, "Follow Me if you want Life." See, leadership, "Follow Me.

You'll have everlasting Life." And I'm sure, even to us adults, we get something out of this, too. If you want Life, you have to accept It. You want religion, you accept it. If you want... What you have to do, what you accept, that's what you'll get. But to me and to you, and to these little children, remember, you have an invitation. Jesus said, "Follow Me, and have Eternal Life." That's what we want to do, don't we?

# 64-0314 - The Investments The Bible said, that, "Moses esteemed the riches of Christ greater treasures than that of Egypt." He forsook Egypt, to follow Christ.

#### <u>64-0112 - Shalom</u>

**117** The great Light that hung in the wilderness which was, that Moses forsook Egypt, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater treasures than that of Egypt. 118 The same One that met Saul on the road down to Damascus. A great Light hung before Him, that same Light, same Pillar of Fire. Saul, being a Hebrew, would never worship any spirit or

anything, or call it "Lord," in the position he was in. He said, "Lord, who are You?" 119 He said, "I'm Jesus." (Jesus said, "I come from God, and I go to God.") 120 That same Light has come. To what? To manifest, to—to make known to the people the promises that He's made for this day, manifested Light of the day. The darkness is darkened.

### <u>Luke 14:16-24 (KJV)</u>

<sup>16</sup> Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many:

<sup>17</sup> And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. <sup>18</sup> And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused.

<sup>19</sup> And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused.

<sup>20</sup> And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.

<sup>21</sup> So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. <sup>22</sup> And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.

<sup>23</sup> And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

## <sup>24</sup> For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.

63-0630E - Is Your Life Worthy Of The Gospel? 34 Now, Jesus here is saying... Man has always tried to make excuses, not to receive God's Word of His invitation. Though it be firmly proven to them, that it's—that's it's His Supper and His invitation, but man is constantly making excuses. And if you read Saint Matthew 22, you'll find that the excuses were made there, also. And—and

they try... 35 It went back into all ages. Went back into the age, and said a man bid them, and—and had a vineyard. And we find that parable. And how he sent his servants to collect from this vineyard. First servant come, what did they do? They run him off. The next servant come, they also stoned him. And they run servant after servant off; the cruel men. The king sent, finally, his son.

And when his son came, we find out, that, "They said, 'This is an heir. We'll kill him, then we'll have all things." Then Jesus said to them, "The king sent forth and slew those murders, and burnt their cities." 36 Now, we see, when God gives a man an invitation, and to do something, or to receive the invitation that He's given him, and he returns it down, then there's nothing left,

after mercy is spurned, but judgment. If you step over the boundaries of mercy, then there's only one thing left, and that is judgment. And we find that man has done that in all ages. It's happened, most every age, in the Bible. 37 When God sent Noah, His servant, and made a way of escape for all the people who wanted to—to be saved. But the people only laughed and scorned at Noah.

But God made the way, but they had an excuse. It wasn't according to their-to their modern thinking. It didn't... It wasn't the way they wanted it, so they made excuses in the days of Noah. 38 They made excuses in the days of Moses. They made excuses in the days of Elijah. They made excuses in the days of Christ. And they make excuses today. 39 Now, Him speaking directly to

Israel, the ones that was called to the feast, that I would also apply today to men, the church, who has been bidden to come to the feast, and won't do it, the spiritual feast of the Lord. And they won't do it. They don't want to do it. They've got other things to do. They find excuses. 40 Now, if Israel, two thousand years ago, would accepted the invitation that they were given, they wouldn't

be as they are today. Two thousand years ago, Israel turned down the invitation to come to the wedding supper, and they turned it down and went into judgment. But, as Jesus said, they stoned and kill the prophets that was sent to them, by making excuses, now, the excuses they made in each day.

