

## **Let's Go The Gospel is for Everyone**

What God does is open to everyone!!

### **Luke 5:1-11 (NIV) Jesus Calls His First Disciples**

5 One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret,<sup>[a]</sup> the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. 2 He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. 3 He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

5 Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. 7 So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" 9 For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, 10 and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." 11 So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

This is the event in Scripture.....Jesus calls/ picks his first Disciples.  
Peter, his brother Andrew, James and John

Why would they leave everything?

Other accounts of this in Matt 4 and Mark 1....

At once, without delay they followed.

Jesus was a Rabbi

-Rabbi is a TEACHER OF GOD'S WORD (Old Testament)

They had extensive knowledge of the first 5 books - Torah  
And of the writings of the prophets

Rabbis traditionally would have select followers

-Disciples or Students to follow and learn

-It was a huge honor to be a student of a rabbi

Those that weren't "good" enough learned trades

-Carpenter, Stone Mason....or FISHERMAN

If you wanted to be a Disciple you would apply

-Like getting into a college or elite school

The spots were reserved for the EXCEPTIONAL

***The Fact that Jesus, The Rabbi, asked these fishermen to follow him***

It was not normal....they were already fisherman

-They already did not make the cut!

Why did they follow IMMEDIATELY?

Because it was a huge opportunity!!

What was Jesus Doing????

Why flip the script??

HE was changing EVERYTHING!!

## **THE GOSPEL IS FOR EVERYONE**

Following Jesus isn't just for the select few.

-He isn't a country club kind of God

-It doesn't matter if you wealthy or poor

-Doesn't matter if you grew up in a christian home or not

Young or Old

Republican or Democrat.....

## THE GOSPEL IS FOR EVERYONE!!

It is for those that are saved and have been made righteous through CHRIST

### **Romans 5:8 New International Version**

8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

You don't clean yourself up to come to God...he takes us as we are!  
THAT IS THE GOSPEL (Good News)

## EVERYONE MEANS EVERYONE

Here is some ugly truth

Not everyone in the church really wants it to be for "Everyone"  
We kind of like things to stay the same....

The "Same" can easily become the standard for the way we like church

Soon the Standard can become a qualification for outsiders

But Jesus Said.....THERE ARE NO QUALIFICATIONS

### **Matthew 19:14 New International Version**

14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Children were running up to Jesus

` Disciples shooed them away

-No, we want a nice teaching session here, get away!

Jesus said the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them!!

Jesus did away with the qualifications to follow him

If we are the Church modeling the love of Christ and pointing people to Jesus

Then we too must get rid of the requirements!

## What does that actually look like?

Churches kind of have our own unwritten code

It looks a bunch of different ways

One code is like a **DRESS CODE**.

Elections come..... Unwritten Political code

We are in Sartell....Is there an Unwritten economic code?

Under the cover of Assembly of God.....is there a denomination code?

Is there a code about Drinking, Music, Language, social agenda?

We must be careful!!

We say we are an “anyone is welcome” church  
BUT ARE WE????

I think we are.....but we must be diligent to stay that way  
It comes by being intentional  
God wants to change lives!

I don't want any custom, tradition, ritual, code, or qualification  
To KEEP people from The Good news!!

IF WE REMOVE THE QUALIFICATIONS LIKE JESUS DID

THEN IT REMOVES THE EXCUSES FOR PEOPLE TO COME TO HIM

When Jesus invites anyone to follow him  
He doesn't just break down barriers that keep people from Him  
He also gets rid of the excuses

The fisherman/tradesman had no excuse to not follow the rabbi..JESUS

I ask you.....Do you have excuses that are keeping you from a relationship with Jesus?

You are here....but not really jumping in?

You think "LET'S GO" doesn't mean you because of.....

Too Busy....Doing other things?

Good things...family, kids, work

Have a Past... "You don't know what I've done."

Baggage from Addiction, Divorce, Bankruptcy.....Past

But Jesus Said.....ANYONE is welcome to have a relationship with him!!

**John 3:16 New International Version**

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Whoever....Anyone...God paid the price for you...every person  
Every Situation....every past.....

He just said come to me...believe in me!

Jesus make the invitation to anyone

But he also makes it clear that it will cost everything

-It is a free gift - what Jesus did for us we can't earn.

He GIVES it to us

But to accept him and follow him....we give him our lives

Look what Jesus says to those wanting to follow him

**Luke 9:23 New International Version**

23 Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

When Peter, Andrew, James and John were asked to follow Jesus, they left everything

-Homes, Jobs, Family....

-followed the Rabbi anywhere he went

Its different than that today because we are not physically following Jesus somewhere  
But we follow him with our entire life

We give him access to everything!

To lead our Home, Lead our family, Lead us at our Jobs

Lead us in our recreation

Lead us where we spend our time

-Where we spend our money

Lead us in our entertainment

-What we look at, watch, listen too

Lead us in how we act

-What we laugh at, talk about, how we talk about people

We dont leave our physical location, but in our lives we follow him with everything  
He impacts and permeates every area of our lives

Could sound scary or like a bad thing.....but it actually is the Best!!

### **Proverbs 3:5-6 New International Version**

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart

and lean not on your own understanding;

6 in all your ways submit to him,

and he will make your paths straight.

### **John 10:10 New International Version**

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

So LET'S GO!!!

Jump in....

The Gospel is for you!!!!

No Excuses

The Cost is actually a blessing!!

