

Follow 02: "Hanging in the Balance"
Luke 5:1-11

March 31, 2024

Main idea: When Jesus asks us to follow we don't know what hangs in the balance.

Last Time

We opened the series last week by reminding you that Christianity began as relational not behavioral. Religious people made it behavioral over the centuries, but Jesus was very clear. No matter what you believe nor how you behave, changes anything. The invitation is still the same – "Follow me." That means that if you want to follow Jesus...

**Being a Sinner does not disqualify you, it's a prerequisite.
Being an unbeliever does not disqualify you either.**

Happy Easter!

On this Easter Sunday we're not going to read about the end of the story, we're going to read about the beginning. Matthew and Luke tell the story and it demonstrates each stage of following. We like to focus on taking up the cross, denying ourselves, sacrificing for Jesus. After all, He sacrificed for us. But that comes later. First, we simply follow. Following is where everything begins.

Peter's Story

In Luke 5 Jesus approached Peter and asked one simple, yet inconvenient question: "Can I borrow your boat?" At this point Peter has no idea what is at stake. Peter had no idea at that moment what was hanging in the balance. Peter would go on to become one of the most influential leaders in the early church. He would write three books in the New Testament – Mark (which was written by Mark but it is Peter's account of Jesus) along with 1 and 2 Peter. Peter would become famous! It all began with a simple decision to follow Jesus.

4 Stages of Following

Sit and Listen – First, Peter listened to Jesus. You have taken the first step simply by being here today. Christianity is not a blind faith. Jesus welcomes your questions and so do we.

Loan Him the Boat – No one's asking you to make wholesale changes in your beliefs or your behavior. Just take that one small step. Loan Him the boat.

Take Him Fishing – God asks that we do something we've done 1000 times, but this time do it His way. Relationally, professionally, financially, do it His way for the first time. Take that small step.

Leave your Net – I surrender. I'm tired of playing games. I'm going to follow Jesus. I am willing to take the next step.

Family Night Big idea – Read Luke 5:1-11

Encourage your children to identify the ways they are trying to follow Jesus. You want them to recognize their intention, not simply religious ritual. Is it your child's intention to follow Jesus? That's where you want to go.

Elementary School – Ask, "What did Peter give to Jesus to allow him to teach from the water? What had Peter been doing all night the night before? What happened when Peter took Jesus out to fish?"

Middle/ High School – Ask, "Why would Peter resist taking Jesus out in the boat? Why do we resist doing what we know Jesus wants us to do? Name some ways you are following Jesus."

Prayer "Father, we want to follow Jesus. Help us be open to the next steps. Amen."

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: At the church this Wednesday, April 3rd.

Gravity: Not today. Enjoy the Easter Service.

Today's Songs

- House of the Lord*.....Phil Wickham
- Praise*.....Elevation Worship
- Hymn of Heaven*.....Phil Wickham
- Revelation Song*.....Kari Jobe

GCC 101 Membership Class

If you would like to join GCC or just want more information about our church, you can attend this class on April 28th. We will meet in the Community Room after the 11:00 service. A light lunch will be served. Childcare is provided. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk in the Lobby.

Mother's Day High Tea

Saturday, May 4th from 2-5pm. There will be performances, a speaker, and refreshments. Cost is \$20 per family. Please sign up in the Lobby by April 14th.

Velocity Summer Camp

Sign up now for Summer Camp Rafting, June 3-7. A \$100 deposit is due by May 12th to secure your spot. Register now by going to gracestatesboro.com.

PlusOne

In addition to attending one of our Sunday services, we are encouraging our adult population to commit to a **PlusOne** opportunity. We can show you how to get started on either Family Night, Small(er) Groups or Personal Study. See flyer in the Lobby.