

Pine Valley 2009 Fishing for Men Disc 5

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SPEAKERS

Pete McKenzie



Pete McKenzie 00:00

Jesus calls men not because they're qualified not because they married it not because they have the great resumes, they went to the right school, they have the right bank account, they live in the right neighborhood drive the right car, have the right family lineage has nothing to do with anything. I mean, all you got to do is look at the 12 and figure that out. Not many were noble. Not many had the right education. Matter of fact, they were all going Why'd you pick me? That's what most of you would say if Jesus came along and pick 12 of us right out of this group and said okay, you and you see you and you over there and hey, you are out there and guys are just be going well, why did you pick me they're looking around and they're looking at guys, I think a lot more spiritual, they got a lot more money, there's got a lot more potential, they a lot better educated and they're looking, why did you pick me my family's falling apart? I'm out of work. You know, the stuff that I did when I was younger, you know, this stuff that I still do? Why are you picking me? What would his answer be? Why would he pick you? Why did he choose you? Jesus says you didn't choose me. I chose you. I chose you for myself, I chose you to come to me, I chose you to be my disciple. In Matthew 419. Jesus was recruiting. Remember the plan, guys? The world is in chaos. zealots are running wild, in our vernacular today, strapping bombs in themselves and running into Roman barracks. Trying to get the Romans out of their corruption in the religious world, corruption in the political world tyrant for a king. And everybody looked at Jesus and they watched him preach and they watch how people followed him around. They watched him heal people and heard about him walking on water and feeding the 5000 and making blind men see and lay men walk and they went we need this guy on our team. We had this guy, our party's in. Everybody would vote for us. We had this guy, we'd run the Romans out. And you know this, you know the deal if you've been around me for five minutes. But I'll go back over it because you may have forgotten. I know you guys. Verily, verily I say unto you again and again and again. And sooner or later, sooner or later, it kicks in sooner or later we step over the line. No looking back, no looking back. No looking back, God is bringing some of you if not all of us into a place where today. This weekend, you stepped over a line you haven't stepped over before with Jesus Christ. Whatever you were afraid of whatever you're holding on to you think you can't live without the unknown that you're afraid of. You know what you like now you can live with it. You've lived with it your whole life. You're limping your guilt and shame you can live with that. You got some sin and pet sins and you know they're wrong, but you can live with that. You know, you need to get it out of

low gear in this area and stop doing this and start doing that but you can live with that because you know what that is it's known you can do see and management a little while longer. But this step over the line, this total abandonment and absolute trust is giving up your right to yourself this having no more agenda, I don't own anything. I don't have a plan for anything. I don't put anything on my calendar. Everything is belongs to Him. And when I jump out of this airplane, he's packed my shoot. And I gotta believe that he's getting make this shoot open. And I don't even know what I'm landing on down there. I just know that I got some weapons that I'm going into battle. I love that Band of Brothers stuff.

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Pete McKenzie 04:05

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee and verse 18, of Matthew four on a recruiting trip. He saw two brothers

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Pete McKenzie 04:23

Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. You know, Andrew is an interesting guy. Andrew was always inviting people to Jesus. Always as finding the guy and saying, Hey, I think I found him when he found Jesus the first time. He went to get Simon his brother and he says, Hey, I think I found the Messiah Come on. And Peter went with him and found Jesus. And now Jesus is recruiting to his team. So he sees these two guys and he says they were casting a net into the lake. They're out there doing their deal. They were fishermen. They were professional fishermen. And they were out there fishing. right in the middle of their business right in the middle of doing their deal, right in the middle of the marketplace. Jesus met these guys.

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Pete McKenzie 05:12

They were fishermen. And here's the here's it was his recruiting talk. Come, follow me. And I'll make you fishers of men. That was a recruiting talk. Now, obviously, these guys had seen Jesus around before. So in the first time they had heard of this guy, they must have heard him preach, they probably said he saw some of his healings, I saw the crowds gathered around him. And so it wasn't like he was a stranger. But still, they were in the middle of doing their deal. They were professional guys, my men find their identity and what they do. And he was asking them to walk away from their identity. Walk away from what define them as men is fishermen. They were good at fishing. They knew where the fish were, they knew nets, they knew how to mend the nets. They knew how to do their job. See, men need to do something they're competent at. Men need to find something they can do that they're good at. And we look around until we find something we're good at. And then we find our identity in that. And that determines how much money we make. And we find our identity and that that determines what cars we drive and what houses we live in and neighborhoods. And we've already talked to Darius said and we size each other up, a guy comes in, we size him up, we see what car he drove in, we should watch why he's dressed. We look at his business card. We start sizing each other up. And these guys were being asked by Jesus to walk away from that. Just like the rich young ruler, rich young ruler had it all. I mean, he was Orange County through and through. We had the chariots he had the clothes, he had the servants, he had the houses, he had the reputation. He had the image. He had the looks. He was young, he was the right age. Jesus sized him up when Jesus called him just like He called these fishermen rich young ruler when he

says look, of course, Jesus was not just fishing around for sharp guys. Jesus was looking for men, just like Jerry described. He was looking for a remnant. He was looking for some men set free from this world. He was looking for some men that were willing to shut out everything, to be stripped down to nothing. And to follow Him. Now, I gotta tell you guys that have a lot of stuff. And I never seen a Christian it didn't want to be rich. Not around here anyway. But guys who have a lot of stuff, and Jesus turned around when that young man walked away, Jesus says, sell it all give it to poor and come and follow me. He walks away Jesus turns around harder for a camel to go through the Aven needle and Richmond get into heaven. And we got all these guys bemoaning being out of work but moaning not having any retirement Emoni not having any money in the bank. And they're the richest guys around, they have the opportunity to be the richest guys around spiritually and vertically. And yet, we've just find the guy is going what does God think? And what does God do? And what are we going to do? And what are we going to eat? And where are we going to live and and God saying it's time to step over the line. But it's time for you to jump out of that airplane, the light is green, you lost your job, you have nowhere to live, the light is green, you're gonna jump or not? See, that's a question you get the you get the doctor going and it's not looking real good. The light is green. I'll never forget Jerry counseling. A guy that he was standing out on my back patio, and he was out on Rambli and maybe one of these retreat trips. And he was talking to this guy that had terminal cancer one of his men. And I'll never forget the line Jared gave him he says look, this is either gonna be the worst thing that ever happened to you. Or either it's gonna be your finest hour. Only you can determine that come and follow me and I'm going to make you fishers of men. Jesus called them to Himself. The thing that we tend to do today and what they're to see the church and organizations doing today and unbeknownst to them, they're recruiting to their organization to their church to their costs. They're trying to build something and many are trying to build their organization their cathedrals on Jesus's foundation it's a subtle thing it's a subtle difference so we can throw Jesus in we can you know put spiritual kind of veneers over anything we want to do. But there's some of those people in Jesus said met de Menil come to me and say, Lord, Lord, and he's gonna say I never knew you. Yeah, but you know, I was in all these Bible studies, and I was working as an usher. And I gave a good bit of money, even gave to some missionaries. Ya know, but you never did it for me. It was always for the church, it was always for yourself. It was always for some other motivation, but not for my glory, not for me. Because when you're doing it for other people, you're always looking for appreciation. You're always looking for someone to notice you, for someone to appreciate you. And when they don't, you kind of get bent out of shape. Because you're doing it for you. So you know, when you're doing it for Christ, because you don't want any accolades. You don't want any appreciation and you're embarrassed. It's like Doug Green was up here today. Doug had to leave early. He's a pastor, he's going back, get ready for church tomorrow. But Doug comes up here. And the last thing Doug wanted to do is be in the limelight. The last thing you wanted to do is be noticed and to be, you wouldn't sit on the back row, he said he wanted to blend in. And I know Doug, and I know Doug does not like the limelight. See, God's men don't like the limelight. They're willing to be there. But they don't like it and they don't seek it. Follow me follow them. And you know, Jesus, Jerry gave us last time he was here two years ago, I remember what he says he says, you know, you're responsible for who you follow. Remember that? Two reasons. One, wherever they're headed, you're headed in to whatever they're like, you're going to be like, That's what he's just talking about. abanda brothers. Now I know me and I'm a coward at heart. And outright coward. Anytime I've been courageous, it's like Jerry said, it's usually been because of some men in my life and being with them. Matter of fact, because of you, I'm more courageous. Because of you, I say notice in more often. I'm thinking, Boy, I got a bunch of guys that I'm in a band of brothers with, and I can't let them down. I don't want to stumble. Because if I stumble, if I fall, I fall on them. So what happens with leaders, when a father falls, he falls on his kids. He falls on his wife. He falls on all his friends. No man is an island. And it's the church and spiritual

leadership. Guys like me, and guys, that are pastors, missionaries, guys that are late leaders, whatever you are, who you got somebody that's looking to you and they're dependent on you to be safe, the safe and reliable ones when the crisis comes in courage is required. And I know I'm a coward at heart. And I've proven it many times, standing up for Jesus standing in the face of danger, bearing up under suffering, sacrificing for the good of others, there are many men in this room that are much more courageous in that regard than I am. And I no one is more aware of needing friends and men in my life, who will encourage me and help me and model for me and pray for me than I am. I need to follow Jesus Christ and hang on his screen door, I need to be with him on a regular basis. I need to hear his voice for myself. I need to self feed. I need to be in the Word. I need to be a man of prayer. You want to be a man of prayer. Then you got to hang around men who pray. You show up on a Friday morning, rollout a little earlier. Come be with the guys at six o'clock who pray and you can become a man of prayer. And there's nothing more important, nothing more urgent, nothing more needed in your personal life and your family's life and in what's going on in the world today than men who pray. The church is looking for better methods. God's looking for better men. Better men are defined by men who pray there again. I'm not a prayer guy. As a missionary, I just did everything I could do. I wish to shame and guilt, shame and guilt, shame and guilt. I stayed away from the prayer things that have prayer meetings and wonder where the missionary was. I was uncomfortable in God's presence, even as a missionary and you got to call me and you got to gifted me and he'd seen God use me. But I was still uncomfortable in His presence. Guilt and shame, guilt and shame. I was not free in Jesus Christ. I didn't know where to go with that sin and really dump it. But Jesus had called me to himself and finally he explained it to me. Finally I got it. I'd read all the verses done all the studies, preached all the sermons, and finally it kicked in and I got its reason I keep telling you maybe to kick in and we'll get it because I'm telling you right now you can hear this over and over and over again and still hold on to your life. Even though Jesus says He who keeps his life will lose it, who loses his life for My sake will gain it? What was the profit you if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?

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Pete McKenzie 15:11

Where's the profit in that? What was it was it make any sense for you not to step over the line for you to hold on to something you don't have any way and to give up something you already have His love, His acceptance, his forgiveness, his grace, you already got that? Follow me. So we recruited first to himself. And you got to decide, are you really have you really decided to follow Jesus I have decided to follow Jesus is a little course that we saying don't we have decided to follow Jesus? No turning back, no turning back the world behind me, the cross before me, the world behind me. No turning back, stepping over the line, deciding who you're going to commit yourself to who you're going to follow what your identity is. Jerry just said it himself. What do you what motivates you? What are you willing to pay a price for? What are you really willing to suffer for? Daniel just purposed in his heart not to defile himself. He did it in a moment probably like this. Not in the moment of crisis. You don't ever make this decision in crisis. You make this decision before the crisis when the crisis comes, you've already decided she had right Misha and Abednego didn't sit there and have to get in a huddle and never can ever showed up. They had already been in a huddle. He comes along and says you guys bow down to my idol. You're going in that furnace? And they said, Gosh, what are you do guys? And in the middle of that panic, they could have crumbled. They could have bowed the knee. But they had already decided before the crisis what they were gonna do. They got together and as a band of brothers, near you see the value of a band of brothers would Shadrach alone have done that, like Jerry made the point? Probably not. This is like a guy that came to me after his wife had left him. I'd been counseling this couples. Some of you guys know him, but I'll protect

the ANA the guilty. And she left me she left him a message. She comes home and she's gone. I've left I'm not coming back. If you want to get put this marriage together, you better call Pete. Because if I got something to do, we're bringing it all together. You know, that's what they do. Pastors are the last ones. And we're supposed to resurrect the dead. And so he comes to see me and we're talking and we're talking about you know, and I've talked to this guy that ad nauseam and and finally I just asked him the big question. Do you want to be God's man? Yeah, can you gave me an Orange County answer? He says, You know, I listened to you on the men's group. And I listen to you on the couples on Sunday. And I'm thinking to myself, is what he's saying, right? I'm going yeah, it's right. Should I do what he's saying? Yeah. Some of you guys have heard Jerry, now you're hearing me and we're saying step over the line, step over the line. And you're going, guys, is that right? Yeah, no, it's right. Should I do it? Yeah, should am I gonna do it? Probably not. That was what he said. Probably not at that point in time. And I didn't know what I know today and have the perspective that I have today. But if it was today, I would stand up. And I'd say in all due respect, there's the door. And I want to see your rear end going out of it right now. Because when you change your mind, then you come back because I cannot help you. We're wasting our time. As long as you are probably not guy, you're wasting my time and your time. So if you get out there and you get desperate enough, because Christianity is a rescue effort for desperate man, if you get desperate enough that you step over the line, don't come to me to step over the line, step over the line, and come and tell me and I'll rejoice with you. This is between you and the Lord, not between me and you? Is this something you got to decide who you're going to follow? And are you stepping over the line and not know, what does that mean? stepping over the line? I don't know. It means that you're giving your life to Jesus Christ and you're not asking any questions anymore. You don't belong to yourself anymore. You have no agenda. I got some turbulence on the airplane the other day. I don't like turbulence. In fact, that's one of the things I liked the least. It's basically 35,000 feet in the air. In the Lord started reasoning with me, he says, Look, do you believe I have a plan for your life? And I went? Absolutely. Do you believe that the very moment you were born? That was in my plan? Yeah. Don't you think the very moment you're gonna die is in my plan to and you're not going to die one second before that. I said, Yeah, but what if Today's a day I'm kind of worried about that.

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Pete McKenzie 19:56

I mean, like I said, I'm a real courageous guy said When we are terrible, I don't like that turbulence. So guys, that's the first point. Jesus has recruited you and called you there's a calling of God on the man's life. Most men that I know that are, that are real warriors for Jesus Christ have known most of their life, if not all their life, that God's hand was on their life. They knew God was calling them. Oh, they've resisted they shuck and jive. They tried to hold on, but sooner or later that Hound of Heaven got a hold on them. And they stepped over the line. Here's the second thing you recruited to follow me and I got a mission men like to Geek recruited to a project a mission, something to give their life to some some vision that they can follow. So we recruited him to something pretty simple. Only two things last forever, God's word, and people. So we recruited them to that only thing that lasts forever, we're going to fish from in, we're not going to fish for jobs, we're not going to fish for bottom line profits. And those things were needed. And there's nothing wrong with those things. But that's not gonna give our life are those things. We're gonna give our life for that which lasts eternally and that's men. Come in, follow me. And we'll go fish for man. We'll go after we'll go after our mind, man, I want more just like you. That's what discipleship is. Jesus says, I want you to become like me. And I want you to go out and make more men like me. That was a great commission, the last thing he says all the power and authority has been given to me and to heaven and earth. So go get

out there. Go after him. Have you ever owned the Great Commission? Let's call the Great Commission. That's what we call that. Have you ever owned it for yourself? If you're ever decided that the purpose in my life is a great commission, to influence people for Jesus Christ, according to the gifts and the opportunities God's given me, not what God's done with Joe, not doing it Terry's way not doing it feels way. I really don't want to do it. You know, Mike and Chris's way they got up and saying, I love you Lord and Starbucks the other day, I was like, That ain't for me. That's it, man. I admire you guys. But I hope God doesn't ask me to do that.

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Pete McKenzie 22:21

How is God gifted you? That's what we go through in the journey. We talk about the fruit of the Spirit, the gifts of the Spirit has God uniquely wired you together to influence somebody else for Jesus Christ. So how you do it is between you and the Lord and your gifts and your opportunities. But the fact that you've committed to do it is what we're talking about. That you understand that that's the purpose. That's the reason Jesus didn't take you straight to heaven. He said, go make disciples go make follow us of me. And they're gonna follow me just like you follow me. How you feel about that? Whatever quality they are, it's the same way Jerry was talking about our wives, our wives are a reflection of how we love them. Your disciples, those people who follow you, those people you're going to influence are going to be a reflection of how you have loved Jesus, and they're going to follow you the same way you follow Him? Have you made a commitment to the Great Commission? Have you decided that the purpose of my life is to give my life to go after God's man? God is in the in the business of redeeming men to Himself, of getting people saved and in the kingdom of getting people assured that they're going to heaven and going to spend eternity in Heaven with Him. And see, that's the motivation behind holiness and godliness, in purity, and integrity. See that, that all that is assault. Those things are the things that attract God's men to other men who are following Jesus Christ. One of the one of the first things I ever learned from JIRA is men chase after men who chase after Christ. We I have to admit, I grew up in a church that was very legalistic about sharing your faith. And you always had to have a fresh door who led to Christ lately that was what the big question was, who have you led to Christ lately? And you better have a story. You better have somebody to share the gospel with and we had great models. Howard Borland like Jerry's talking about one of our first mountain first is Howard was a man he was unbelievably unique evangelist. Bold, unbelievably bold. And sharing his faith. We're driving down there, Jerry, I think it was Jerry driving down the road. One day, he told his story he and Howard. And there's two guys hitchhiking back in the days from pizza with people with your child, and it was safe to do. And he pulls out at least two hitchhikers, and he says boys Howard had this unbelievable way of talking and he says boys, I'm going to ask you the most important question you've ever been asked in your life?

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Pete McKenzie 25:03

And you know, there's students sitting there looking in the window hoping for a ride. If you died today, where would you boys spend eternity?

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Pete McKenzie 25:13

I don't know, you know, and it was shucking and jiving, Jared could probably give me more details about their response. Howard shared the gospel with him. no uncertain terms, giving

your life to Jesus Christ is the only way you could ever know you're going to eternity. Are you boys have a good day. They just kind of standing there going. crowd was. But Howard was was unbelievable. But But what I learned at Broward Presbyterian Church is a very new Christian, I saw men who were committed to the Great Commission. So men who are committed to learning how to share their faith, that's all men who took took the Four Laws and just shared the four spiritual laws with every guy that they ran into. We'd have a basketball game, and I'd be coaching the team. And I'd look over and one of the dads of one of my players was sharing the gospel with somebody over here in the corner. He was an oral surgeon. And just shared the gospel his patients shared the gospel with you know, at the basketball game, when he went to see his kid play. I saw architects, oral surgeons, insurance, guys, carpenters. They all just were committed to the Great Commission. committed to going after men. And so part of the being a man of God, and there's a lot to be in a man of God in defining the man of God. But let's simplify the terms because when we come to our retreats, we give opportunities for guys to be anointed man of God, which we're going to do in a few minutes. And a lot of you guys have heard this spiel, I'm going to share it again. Because somewhere along the line, you're gonna give a guy this spiel. And more often times you hear it, the more you're gonna be able to remember what this is all about. So let me go over with you again. Jesus is calling men to follow him. Man, and God stepped over the line. This line of salvation, He knows that he knows that he knows. He hasn't just prayer to pray to prayer and kind of following Jesus at a distance and holding his life. Go see those guys don't really know they're the James one, guys, Jared is talking about their double minded man unstable in all their ways. They kind of maybe they've been baptized, maybe they prayed a prayer, but they've never stepped over the line. So they don't know for sure that they're saved. There's another group of people that heard the gospel, and they just outright reject it. For whatever reason, they're not buying it. It is a third group of people. And they're in that end of the sermon on the mount kind of guys. They think they're saved, but they're not. Jesus said on that day, many will come to me. They've been very religious. They've done a lot of things they've served they've given. These guys even perform miracles in Jesus name, cast out demons in Jesus name. I'd say that's pretty powerful stuff. I never knew you. Can you imagine guys out there casting out demons in Jesus name? Does that tell you how much Jesus honors his name, but not maybe the server. And these guys didn't even know. And then they're going to be really surprised to be much gnashing of teeth on that day. But this group of guys, and then there's those guys that have stepped over the line. And the Holy Spirit is born witness in their heart, they know that they know that. They know. They know they know Jesus Christ, they know they're forgiven for every sin, they know, based on the blood of Christ forgiving them for every sin in the name of Jesus, they know they're going to have him based on his word, his promise, not on their performance. And you ask the average church guy today, you go and ask some of your friends in church and say if you were standing at the gates of heaven, and Jesus says, Why should I let you and see what they say? Because I'm guarantee you 90% will give you a merit based answer. See works is replaced Grace today in the church for getting into heaven. It just has subtly it's worked his way in there. Because grace is unmerited favor. Grace is good done toward the undeserving. And that just offends us our sense of justice, our sense of fairness, we have to do something we have to merit it we have to earn it. And so we set out to try to do that. And then we hear all these messages and they pretty much confirm it. We walk away oftentimes from retreats and we have guys coming against us go to these retreats I go to these men's things. I've come away more guilt and shame or beat up. They tell me what I'm supposed to be as a husband, they tell me what I'm supposed to do as a father and I and I'm just coming up short on all the accounts and I just feel worse some of you guys in here feeling worse right now. I've been a crummy dad. I think families are broken up. I've currently your husband and Chromie father and you know I haven't been Get over it. Get over yourself. You will never step over the line as long as you're looking at your sand, your record of whiteness, your failures, no man of God ever made progress in the

Christian life looking at his own failures and limitations. How can you make progress in G? And Paul said in Philippians, he says, forgetting what lies behind. Why did Paul say that? Because he knows that your tendency and mine is men is to look at our track record. And we go, I'm no good. And I haven't accomplished anything, and I haven't done anything and and Jesus is saying, Would you just get over yourself? How you ever gonna make progress looking at the problem, you just become more of the problem. The only way you're going to make progress is looking at the solution, forgetting what lies behind stretching, straining to what lies ahead, that upward call of God in Christ Jesus. In that regard, today's the first day of the rest of your life, Jesus is the God of second chances. And third chances. He's the God of forgiveness and restoration and reconciliation, Jesus, if Jesus is not going to look at you're already repented off and ask forgiveness of sin. Why are you because you're still working on a merit based system. And all it can do all it can do, all it can do is produce guilt and shame. being critical of yourself, Jerry gave us these four things today. Defensiveness, and someone says, Well, you know, that's not so bad. And you get defensive. Oh, yeah, that's bad. I'm really I'm really crummy. I'm disgusting. I'm a loser. Well, that defensiveness when it comes to the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit just withdraws. When you get defensive like that. A critical spirit. You look at yourself, and you see a critical spirit looks at a saint and calls him a sinner and gives himself permission to reject him. That's what men do. They look at themselves and they go, I'm a sinner. No, no, you're a saint. You're forgiven. If you in fact, know Jesus Christ, and you're forgiven, and his blood has cleanse you from all sin, you're a saint in Jesus Christ. And if you are a saint, and you're calling yourself and pronouncing yourself a sinner, shame on you. Because you're all you're saying is that blood that Jesus shed on the cross wasn't good enough for me. When you need to repent, you need to repent, of seeing yourself in a light of being a sinner and giving yourself permission to reject yourself. Remember my vision, that story of walking in the gym over there, the Boys and Girls Club. And I walked in and there was a circle of people in the middle of the floor and they were kicking somebody on the floor. Remember that one? And I walked over and I started joining in, I was kicking away and I said, looked at the guy said, who we kick and I looked down it was me. Because that's all I would do. I'd take the knife out of your hand stab myself with it. Yeah, I'm, I'm terrible. I'm bad. I'm no good. And Jesus gave me that vision because I looked around the circle and he wasn't in it. He says, What are you doing in the circle? If I'm not in there? If I wanted to kick that'd be on there kick in. Yeah, he says, but I'm not kicking you. Why are you kicking yourself? While you've beaten up on yourself, the world's gonna come at you and try to beat up on you. But what do you be your own friend? Jesus says I call you friend. You're my friend. Yeah, but yeah, but no, no, no, no, don't give me any Yeah, but. See, unconditional loves loves you unconditionally. Are you telling me that I'm not now I don't love you. Because you've sinned. You think I'm surprised because you send Brother Lawrence in practices, the pros of God, brother Lauren says, Look, I'm never surprised when I see. And I'm surprised when I don't. We need to get in touch with reality. Look at the solution. Quit looking at the problem and you're not the problem. Sin is a problem you're seeing is a problem, but you can't beat it. Have you ever come to the place where you've understood you cannot conquer your sin. I don't care how hard you try how many leaves you turn over. We didn't call you up here this weekend for you to get fired up and turn over a new leaf and I'm gonna go home and stop this and start that. Forget that. Sign up for a journey group and learn how to sell feet and spend time in God's presence. And that tree will be planted by a stream of water. And it yields its fruit in its season. Not because it's strained hard, not because it performed not because it tried it set by the stream and sapped up its strength. And you just sit there and you just got this word of God and prayer and you're hanging around with the right guys and you're in a healthy environment and all of a sudden you start seeing fruit flow out of your life. If you love me, you'll obey me

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Pete McKenzie 34:48

and try to obey him go and love him. Go and spend time with him and spend time in his presence. In the natural fruit of that is joyful obedience that you don't even realize it's just flowing out of you. You now because you're trying harder is because Jesus Christ who lives in you. Paul said it this way, I'm crucified with Christ, I stepped over the line. I'm now dead. Jesus lives in me. Now he's living his life in me the Christian life. Remember, it's not hard, it's impossible. So why are you out there trying to be a Christian and live a Christian life when only Jesus Christ can live it in you and through you. And as he do that, when you spend time with Him, when the Spirit of God be filled with the Spirit, Paul says, because guys aren't filled with the Spirit, and they're out there trying on their own, they're drunk with wine. They say this doesn't work, I might as well go back to my marijuana, go back to my wine, go back to my addiction, because I got to mass his pain somehow. So I'm gonna go back to my wine, be filled with the Spirit, you won't need that way. Be drunk with the Spirit of God. And then the natural flow of that is just Jesus living in you and through you. And then you know, you're a man of God. You found your identity in Jesus Christ, not in your works not in your performance. And you'll have to fight that Oh, self, your whole life and pride. Until we go to heaven. We'll be fighting pride and selfishness and self centeredness and all that stuff. It's just what we're gonna fight. Paul says, I fought the good fight. And I think that's what he was talking about. I've denied myself. I've been crucified with Christ. So ya know, for me to live is Jesus Christ. I've stepped over the line, no turning back, no turning back. And so that's what we're asking you today. That's what we're Jesus Christ is coming and say, Look, there's a call of God on your life. And I'm calling you personally. I'm calling you. I'm calling you to step over the line, come and follow me. Now, you got a good reason right now in your mind why you will want to follow Jesus Christ. So you don't want to step over the line. We didn't want to just put it all in there and say, okay, Jesus, I'm following you. No questions asked. You're the Lord of Lords and the King of kings and I'm giving my heart to you. You can start doing my worrying for me. I don't have to worry about my life what you got planned, where I'm gonna live, what I'm going to eat, you got it all figured out. I'm trusting you. I'm not going to try to go out and burn the world up. You'll burn the world up in me and through me. I want to go after men. Would you give me a heart? Would you give me a heart to go after guys just like me? Guys who are confused guys who are scared guys who are desperate. Would you just give me a heart to see him? Jesus walked through the villages and he saw men downcast distress like sheep without a shepherd. And then he says, Guys, look, lift up your eyes and look at on the harvest fields. They're

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white for harvest. They're everywhere. But the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

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Nobody comes to church. Nearly. Let's put it this way. The Friday and Wednesday church unless some fisherman goes after some guy fishing for men out there some guy with a heart and a burden for guys who have they have to ask 10 to 15 times before they ever come. But they're relentless. And you know what? Where's Glenn? Glenn mirror that's a different gland. Where's the Zimbabwe gland? It goes to Zimbabwe all time he leave already. I think he left but he was just telling me before he came in here. He says I forget who it was now that invited him but he says he invited me at least 12 times he says but once I came once Peter came in saw the Messiah you couldn't run him off with a stick we got guys once you can get them around

these kinds of guys. They go I'm in I can't tell you how many guys they've been there once or twice Mike Ryan second time somebody invited him I don't know how many time he got invited how many times why a bunch one time your boy your well that's how we get averages. He was desperate.

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Okay, you just lost your crown you want to come up here and stand we'll give you a standing ovation. Hey, way to go Fisher men. And Mike comes up in his second week there he comes up to me. He goes I'm in what do I do? Well, he might not have said that if he knew that the retreat two years ago he's gonna have to do what's going on. But what I want to ask you today is I go into churches all the time and I look at guys and I go man of God. Absolutely. Yeah, that's not what they say. I told you this week before last and the first century lepers the law was at run around and wherever they went they had to Yeah, At the top of their voice, unclean, Unclean, unclean, and today men are walking into churches. They're walking around they named the name of Christ. They call themselves Christian, and they walk around saying unworthy, unworthy, unworthy. You feel unworthy today