

Encounter Church
Sunday February 02, 2025

Dreaming.....Again
Overcoming Discouragement

INTRODUCTION: Share the story of Missions Banquet at First Assembly Port Arthur.

Luke 5:1-5- "One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God. He noticed two empty boats at the water's edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish." "Master," Simon replied, "we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing....."

Discourage- dishearten, demoralize, daunt, dispirit.

One Hebrew word for discourage is rapa. It means to weaken, to forsake, to let go and to slacken.

Discouragement weakens our resolve and can even cause us to forsake our dreams.

HOW CAN I OVERCOME DISCOURAGEMENT

1. Give Jesus Ownership of Your Life

Psalms 25:1,2- "O Lord, I give my life to you. I trust in you, my God!...."

1 Corinthians 6:19-20- "Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body."

GIVE JESUS FULL ACCESS TO YOUR LIFE! MY LIFE BELONGS TO YOU JESUS!

PETER SAID IT THIS WAY: MY BOAT BELONGS TO YOU JESUS!

Luke 5:3- "Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there."

WANT TO OVERCOME DISCOURAGEMENT? GIVE JESUS OWNERSHIP OF YOUR LIFE!

2. Be Honest About Your Efforts

Luke 5 4-5- "When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish." "Master," Simon replied, "we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing....."

DON'T TELL A FISH STORY!

Sometimes we'd rather appear wise than be wise! We struggle admitting our own weaknesses! When God already knows them!

2 Corinthians 12:8-10- "Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

Many times we think confessing our weakness is a weakness, but God says it's actually the path to experiencing His power!

"My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness."

Psalms 127:1- "Unless the Lord builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted."

SO THIS NEXT POINT IS SO IMPORTANT IF YOU WANT TO OVERCOME DISCOURAGEMENT.

3. Trust and Obey....Whatever Jesus Tells You to Do

Luke 5:5- "Master," Simon replied, "we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, I'll let the nets down again."

John 10:27- "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

Obedience to God's voice goes back to point one. "Give Jesus Ownership of your life!"

1 John 5:3- "Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome."

4. Expect Jesus to Turn Things Around

Luke 5:6,7- “And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.”

CAN YOU BELIEVE GOD WITH ME FOR BOAT SINKING MOMENTS

Numbers 23:19- “God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through?”

1 Thessalonians 5:24- “The one who calls you by name is trustworthy and will thoroughly complete his work in you.”

HE KNOWS YOUR NAME AND HE IS FAITHFUL! IF HE SAID IT, HE’LL DO IT!

CONCLUSION: Overcoming Discouragement! Give Jesus Ownership. Be honest. Obey Him and then Expect Jesus to turn things around!

THERE’S A GREATER PURPOSE!

LUKE 5:8-11- “When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, “Oh, Lord, please leave me—I’m such a sinful man.” For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed. Jesus replied to Simon, “Don’t be afraid! From now on you’ll be fishing for people!” And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus.”

It wasn’t about the fish! It was about Jesus purpose for Peter’s life. A greater purpose.

DON’T BE AFRAID, GOD HAS A PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE!