

Daniel Choi

Sermon Transcript

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Sermon Title: Following the Footsteps of Christ

Introduction (Slide 1)

Hey everyone, I want to welcome each and every one of you to Lighthouse church, whether you call this church home, or if this is your first time here, we want to welcome you and thank you for making God a deeper priority inside of your life, even with the situation we are currently living in, I have found it so encouraging to see how many of my friends grow in their faith. I have introduced myself multiple times by now, but for those, I have never met before, my name is Daniel. I am a third-year student at King's University in Edmonton. I am in my last year towards pursuing my bachelor's in Theology. Hoping that I could use the things I learn to minister and disciple others. Now for this message, I would like to begin by sharing a story with all of you guys. Back in high school, I was not exactly a great student. That was somewhat noticeable with my grades, but that wasn't the main issue. The main issue was that I didn't know how to deal with authority. What do I mean by that? Well, I remember in one class I had, my teacher was handing out the last mark updates of the semester and when I saw my grade, I was not too happy. So I privately talked with the teacher after class was finished to see what are some ways I can improve my grades. Now what they told me was not wrong, they said that if I actually handed in your work on time and paid attention during the lectures, my mark would not be as bad as it is. Now my teacher was not wrong, and secondly, he was also joking. Now how did I reply back? I told him straight to his face that a student is only as good as the teacher. To put it bluntly, he didn't find that funny. In fact, he seemed kind of offended by that statement. Now the

reason I am telling you this story because I actually think that statement holds a lot of truth in our Faith. How do we know Jesus is a good leader? Well, the first things that come to mind, Jesus is a welcoming and accepting teacher, he encourages us when we feel discouraged, He challenges our faith and pushes us out of our comfort zone, and the one I am going to be focusing on today is that He disciplines us and invites us to follow in His footsteps. As believers in Christ, we are called to be disciplined and led by Him. The word disciple comes from the Greek word “mathētēs. Which directly translates to “pupil” or “student”. (Slide 2)

It describes a person who observes other people’s instructions. In the Ancient World, this word was most commonly used for people who were devoted followers towards a specific religious leader such as a Rabbi or Pharisee. The passage we are going to be looking at today is how Jesus is a disciple-maker by seeing how He calls us to be his followers, what way’s we challenge us, and the attitude we will have when we are disciplined by Him. and understanding how He continues to call each and every one of us to be disciples today.

So before begin diving into Scripture, let’s take some time in prayer.

Scriptural Teaching

Luke Chapter 5:1-4 (Slide 3)

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. He saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen who were washing their nets. 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.

Let’s stop there and see what this verse is teaching us. What we can get from this passage is that Jesus shows us that the Gospel is accessible for every man and woman, it is for all of us.

There are two reasons Jesus chose to preach in a boat. The first reason is that he wanted to be engaged with everyone. Let's say if Jesus was on the shore, the crowds would overwhelm him and push one another aside to get a glimpse of Jesus. Everyone would be shoving each other to get the front row seats to see Him. Only those who were closest to Him would be able to hear and see Him. Jesus chose to go out into the shore because He wanted the message to be heard by all. And this is the first point that shows us that this verse teaches us that the Gospel is accessible towards everyone. The second reason why Jesus went out to the waters to preach was that He wanted to go to the ideal place to speak to the crowd. When you are out on the waters, your voice is going to echo because sound travels better. This further shows how God's message is intended towards all men and women, it targets all people groups. This is what Jesus' message is supposed to look like in our world today. Faith only comes from hearing. That is why Jesus went out of His way to passionately speak to as many people as He possibly could. There is not a specific group of people that God favors more than others. Jesus doesn't focus His outreach solely based on people's ethnicity, whether they were Greek, Gentile, Samaritan, or Jew. Jesus was open towards all people, He shows no partiality towards anyone because they are rich, religious, or morally righteous. Even those that the rest of society considered to be outcasts such as the poor, the sick, the widowed, and immoral, Jesus still loved them and cared for them. He chose to comfort those who didn't have anyone else such as the Samaritan Woman in John Chapter 4. He chose to show mercy, rather than condemnation to the women who were caught in adultery when everyone else wanted to kill her. Jesus reaches out and helps those, who are unable to help themselves. He wanted everyone at the lake to be engaged to Him; and even today, He wants all of you engaged in a relationship with Him. He has the same attitude as He did on the lake. Just as

He showed no partiality towards anyone back then, He does not show any now. You do not need to prove yourself morally to be seen as righteous in God's eyes.

(Slide 4) Psalm 14, mentions this, and Paul quotes this in the Book of Romans Chapter 5, but in the eyes of God, nobody is righteous, nobody does good, not even one. Thankfully, the good news of the Gospel tells us is that we do not need to be righteous in God's eyes for Him to accept us. My friend, Elliott Morris preached on this last week, we do not need to work towards your salvation, as God is the one who gives it to you.

(Slide 5) Even if all of us are undeserving, it is by grace through faith you have been saving, and this is not from yourself. It is a gift from God so that nobody can boast (Ephesians 2:8-9). That is the takeaway from these four passages. Jesus wanted everyone to be focused and engaged on Him. He still feels the same way towards each and every one of you today.

Luke 5:4-7,11 (Slide 6).

I want to ask you guys a question. What if Simon Peter never followed Jesus? After he performed this miracle, what if Peter goes back to his old ways as a fisherman? After catching all of this fish? He would most likely be quite wealthy. Every other fisherman around the area would be envious of Peter's catch. He would be making a name for himself. Yet He still chose to follow God, to help Jesus expand his kingdom rather than pursuing His own. A lot of times, this passage is really commonly used as a prosperity Gospel message. It has been taken out of context to deceive people into believing that if you follow Jesus, then He will bless your life with the earthly riches that this world has to offer. I cannot express with words, how wrong, and twisted that view of the Gospel is. This story is not teaching you that Jesus is going to bless your life with the riches that this world can offer. Do you want to know where the Bible teaches that you can gain earthly riches by following Christ? Well, that is a trick question, because it never

does. John Piper said it very eloquently, he says that this story is not about receiving earthly riches. It is not about making a name for yourself or building towards what you want. It is about gaining freedom from earthly riches. Peter chose to leave his life as a fisherman because the life of a disciple is much, much better, fulfilling, and joyful. There is not even a comparison. Even though Peter chose to leave behind financial benefits, he was willing to sacrifice his own gifts for the benefit of the Gospel.

I want you guys to put yourself in Peter's shoes for a minute. What is Jesus asking you to sacrifice for the benefit of the Gospel in your life? What is a stumbling block in your faith? What is something in your life that you are doing, that is not profitable in your relationship with God? I can assure you if you look hard enough, there is going to be something there. When we choose to follow Jesus, we are saying that we are denying ourselves of the pleasures, and joys, and wonders that this world has to offer. We are making a choice to deny ourselves and the benefits that this world can offer in order to follow God. This of course is hard to do, and it is a lot of gradual change. The more we put aside the idols inside of our lives, the deeper rooted our relationship with Jesus can be. You can never fully trust Him if He is not the priority inside of your life. If there is something you are reliant on above God, then whatever that thing is, does not belong there. Jesus is supposed to. We are working towards the path towards discipleship. So now that we discussed that, I want to ask you guys a question. On Monday's I attend a worship night at Fort George Park and one time someone shared something really profound, and since that day, I honestly do not go a day without thinking about it, and I want to bring it to you guys.

Who wants to be a disciple by Christ? Who wants to see others become disciples? Do you want to see the church expand? Do you guys want your friends to become Christians and believe and have hope in the same God that you do? Well, I hope the answer to that is yes. No, let me

ask you this, if you want revival in the church, in schools, in workplaces, in your friend groups, with your family, then ask yourself. Are you ready to be a disciple by Christ? Are you ready for a revival? Are you ready to bring the Gospel to other places in the world? Faith comes from hearing and we as Christians are tasked to bring the message to others. God does not have a Plan B. As a Christian, you are tasked to show others who Jesus is. Sounds overwhelming, doesn't it? How should we respond with that calling? Well, let's see what Peter does.

Luke 5:8-11 (Slide 7)

When Peter realizes that the miracle performed was done by Jesus. He was immediately humbled. He realized that the one he was talking too was the one who was without sin. Our reaction when we truly see and see Jesus will be no different. When we begin to truly understand who Jesus is, when we begin to grasp how supernatural, deeply powerful, how high and deep and vast His love is for us. How incomparable His greatness is, especially in juxtaposition towards us, our automatic response will be to be in complete, sheer, and utter reverence towards Him. In order to be used by God, we must understand what it means to fear Him as Peter does in this passage. Peter is aware of how sinful He is in the eyes of God. What does Jesus say in return? Jesus tells Him not to be afraid. He is approachable. He is Welcoming. Jesus doesn't deny that Peter is a sinner; rather, he encourages him and tells him that he is no longer called to fish in the lake, now he is called to be fishers of men and women. He is not meant to take part in pursuing the riches this world can offer; rather, He is now meant to serve Jesus and build his kingdom instead. I have a quote from Martin Luther, who was a famous theologian during the 16th Century who helped shape the Protestant Christianity into what it is today.

(Slide 8) He said that we are to "sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ more boldly still". So it is really important to understand this quote because it can be easy to miss what he is

trying to say. Luther is not saying that we are called to sin without shame and correction and abuse the grace of God. That is a disgusting, blasphemous, and wicked act of taking God for granted. This quote teaches us to boldly understand that you are a wretched sinner. Not a single trace of good is within you.

(Slide 9) Ephesians Chapter 2 states that “as for you, YOU were dead in your sin and transgressions.” Do not compare yourself to others and see yourself as more righteous as the Pharisees did. You yourself are a wicked and sinful person. It is part of our spiritual DNA. It isn't that we do sinful things, and as a result of that, you are a bad person. We do sinful things because we are naturally wicked and sinful. Even if you try to be a righteous person, the fact that you are sinful is not going to change. This statement holds true in every circumstance.

(Back to Slide 8) This is what Luther means by sinning boldly. Thankfully for all of us, that is only half of Luther's quote. While we are to boldly proclaim ourselves as sinners, we can boldly proclaim, and be joyful in Christ all the more”. Church, understand and be comforted that we have Christ.

(Slide 10) We can boldly and joyfully proclaim that “while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). If anyone is in Christ, the New Creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” (2nd Corinthians 5:17). When you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you have been crucified with Christ and you no longer live, but Christ lives in you. The life you now live in this body, you live by faith in the Son of God, He loves you, and gave His own life for you (Galatians 2:20). Just like Peter here, understand that we are wicked and sinful, but also applicate that just as Jesus offers grace to Peter, He does the same for us. No matter where we are currently at, what we are currently struggling with, God will not turn His back on you. Because of His great love for us, we are not consumed. His compassions never fail. His mercies

are new every morning. That is not only what Luther teaches, but that is what the Good News is. This is why we can be disciples of Christ, because He invited us to follow Him, to lay down the idols we have, and to come to find greater joy pursuing what God has in store for us, than we can possibly come to earn on our own accord.