

March 10th 2024



Luke 5:1 On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret,

Scripture refers to the Word of God as food for our soul. When you skip a meal, what do you feel? I first of all feel angry, because I love eating, and then, more importantly hungry. In all my life I have never once felt guilty because I didn't eat something. If the Bible is our spiritual food, then when we fail to read it we shouldn't feel guilty; we should feel hungry. We should take a lesson from Moses:

Moses said to the Lord, "See, you say to me, 'Bring up this people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." And he said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." And he said to him, "If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?" And the Lord said to Moses, "This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name" (Exodus 33:12-17). (Tyler Edwards, *Zombie Church* pp. 129-130).

Prayer: Pray that just as the crowd pressed in on Jesus, your life will also reflect a desire to press in on Jesus by striving to be close to him, to know him. Pray that God will draw you close to Him, and that you will have a longing to feel his presence.

March 11th 2024



Luke 5:2-4 and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. **3** Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. **4** And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, **“Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.”**

Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the Lord had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy. Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy"... So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed." But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage. Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed'!" So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy. (2 Kings 5: 1-3 & 9-14)

Prayer: Jesus doesn't force himself on us, but He invites us. He invites us to walk with Him and experience the amazing glory and power of His presence. However accepting the invitation can sometimes feel daunting. Pray for your heart to be opened to how God is inviting you to trust in His word and experience His glory.

March 12th 2024



Luke 5:5 And Simon answered,
“Master, we toiled all night and took
nothing! But at your word I will let
down the nets.”

And Samuel said, “Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. (1 Samuel 15:22)

“The reason God often leads us down scarier ,dangerous, “unwise: paths is that we grow in our faith when we travel these roads. David Brenner helpfully reminds us, ‘God’s interest in what we do grows out of a much more fundamental interest in who we are.’ This means that God will usually counsel us towards the option that requires us to trust and rely on him more. Of course, this doesn’t mean that God never guides us to seek the best medical care for a child, or attempt to escape danger, ortake the largest army possible into a war. What it means is that if we hear a voice urging us to take the road less traveled, the more dangerous and unknown road, the road that requires the most faith, we should pay attention” (Jim Samra, God told me, p 106).

Prayer: Pray for faith, for faith to follow God in His leading and not living life simple in dependance on our own abilities. Yes God has given us reason and abilities, and yet our dependence should always be anchored in God’s Word & instruction. Pray that as you from God, that your faith will be drawn to trust Him in obedience.

March 13th 2024



Luke 5:6-7 And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

“Seeking guidance from God does not mean our discions will result in a problem-free life. But when we yield our desires to his, we end up with the best possible path because God is wiser than we can ever fathom, loves us more than we love ourselves, and is working all things together for the glory of his name” (Jim Samra, God Told me p. 160)

When we read the story of the Exodus, we are confronted with an amazing picture of how God works, not for any other purpose then for His own glory so that all people may know Him, and experience Him. God multiplied His works in Egypt so that the nations and all generations may understand and see the Glory of the Almighty God.

Prayer: Pray for God’s glory in the circumstances in your life. Pray that God will be at work, not for the betterment of circumstances, but that as He leads, we will experience His goodness and might that will cause His own glorification in our praise and testimony.

March 14th 2024



Luke 5:8 But when Simon Peter saw it,
he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying,
“Depart from me, for I am a sinful man,
O Lord.”

“The gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope.” (Tim Keller)

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. (Romans 3:21-25a)

Prayer: Spend some time in awe of God’s saving grace - remembering that we are sinful people and are saved only by God’s grace alone. Pray in thanksgiving for God’s mercy, thanking God for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

March 15th 2024



Luke 5:9-10 For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.”

No, you may not feel qualified, but God is not looking for ability as much as He is looking for availability. [More than] calling the qualified, God qualifies the called. (Greg Laurie, Tell Someone, p. 14)

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling[c] the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:18-21)

Prayer: Pray to be a “fisher of man,” for that is what all Christians are called to. C.S Lewis wrote, The Church exists for nothing else but to draw men into Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became Man for no other purpose.” Pray for those that you know who need to hear the gospel of Christ.

March 16th 2024



Luke 5:11 And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. (Luke 14:25-33)

“The problem that we are facing in the church today is that we have so many Christians who have made a decision to believe in Jesus but not a commitment to follow Him. We have people who are planning to, meaning to, trying to, wanting to, going to, we just don’t have people who are doing it. Involved does not equal committed. The difference between involvement and commitment is like the difference between eggs and ham at breakfast - the chicken was involved but the pig was committed. What we have in our immediate society is not a culture of dedicated soldiers willing to storm the gates of hell, but a group of involved Christians who want to share in the victory without being a part of the labor. The involved Christian reserves the right to tell God no, because involvement does not require surrender. Commitment does” (Tyler Edwards, *Zombie Church*, p. 72).

Prayer: Pray surrender to God - in all things. Surrender everything to God and reflect on if there is anything that you are holding back, or if anything is holding you back from complete surrender.